Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-182
Wednesday
22 September 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-182 22 September 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Contacts To Upgrade Talks Representation Reported

TA2009160393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Sep 93 p 2

["Exclusive" to AL-QUDS]

[Text] Cairo—Senior political sources in Cairo have said that Palestinian-Israeli contacts are currently under way to upgrade the level of representation in their two negotiating delegations upon the resumption of bilateral talks in Washington, which is expected before the end of this month. The sources said that a high-ranking PLO official is a candidate for heading the Palestinian delegation, which for the first time will conduct its talks with Israel independently from the Jordanian delegation.

The sources noted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is currently discussing with his senior associates the reorganization of the Palestinian delegation, which will be assigned with realizing the remaining task of a comprehensive settlement. The delegation is to include prominent PLO figures, as well as Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories. There will also be a prominent representative from Jerusalem, in view of the PLO's commitment to Jerusalem as one of the basic factors in a settlement.

The same sources explained that there is a possibility of postponing the 12th round of talks until a Syrian-Israeli and a Lebanese-Israeli agreement on principles is reached. This means that the 12th round might be delayed until October because there is a desire to achieve parallel progress on all the negotiating tracks. This is something that is being discussed by the United States, Russia, and Egypt with all the parties.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Holds News Conference on Session

NC2109123293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles is an important step toward peace. It must be followed by steps on every other track to ensure Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the world to prepare for the post-peace era, which, he said, is inevitable.

He asserted that the Arab world, with its geographic location, human and material capability, and culture, possesses all the elements of success.

'Abd-al-Majid was speaking to a news conference at the end of the 100th session of the Arab League Council, which discussed important topics and was attended by 18 Arab ministers.

The Arab League secretary general said the Arab League Council decided to support the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over its three islands and called on Iran to facilitate the talks so that the UAE can regain the islands peacefully.

He said the Council approved the Comoros Islands' membership in the Arab League as its 22d member.

On the Somali problem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Council appealed to the warring factions in the country to end the violence. He said the responsibility lies primarily with the Somali leaders. He also stressed the need to implement the Somali reconciliation decision of last February.

On the Lockerbie crisis, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League Council approved the report prepared by the seven-member Arab committee concerned with the Libyan-Western crisis on Saturday [18 September]. He appealed to the three Western countries—the United States, France, and Britain—to respond to the efforts being made, in light of the memorandum that Libya presented to the UN secretary general, which demands guarantees for Libya.

He said: The Libyan memorandum opened the door to the three Western countries and we are awaiting their response.

'Abd-al-Majid said he will hold contacts with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the concerned parties on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly meetings in New York to improve the possibility of solving the crisis peacefully and abolishing the coercive measures against Libya.

On the study of pan-Arab security, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League Council decided the subject should be studied further and forwarded to the Council again.

He said Arab reconciliation was not discussed, but some debate was held in light of his speech to the Council.

He stressed that Arab reconciliation is inevitable, but will take some time. We don't underestimate the problems and difficulties, but there is a belief in the need for Arab reconciliation.

He said the Council decided to discuss the jurisdiction of the Arab court of justice and whether it should be obligatory or optional. He said the subject will be put to the Council at its next session.

Arab League Council Issues Resolution on Libya

NC2109145393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council's resolution on the Libyan-Western crisis emphasized the need to back the Libyan memorandum submitted to the Arab League secretary general, which provides new elements that could help find a settlement for this crisis through dialogue and negotiations.

The resolution expressed concern at and rejection of the policy of escalation, threats, and warnings used by the three Western states and called for a response to the positive initiatives and the ongoing efforts, including the Libyan memorandum. The resolution stressed the seven-member Arab committee's determination to continue its efforts and contacts with the UN secretary general and the Security Council member states to avoid any escalation in the crisis and give positive and constructive dialogue a chance in reaching a suitable settlement.

The resolution asked the Arab League secretary general to intensify his efforts and contacts with all parties involved in the crisis and with the UN secretary general to reach an objective solution. Such a solution must be based on the principles of international law and preserve Libya's sovereignty, particularly in light of the positive Libyan proposals in its memorandum to the United Nations.

On the developments in the Palestinian intifadah, the Arab League Council decided to send its appreciation and gratitude to the struggling Palestinian people and reiterated support for the Palestinian intifadah until the occupation ends and the Palestinian people regain their inalienable national rights. The resolution appealed to the international community and the international and regional organizations to increase their aid and support to the people of the occupied Palestinian territories to enable them to face difficult conditions. The resolution called on the international community and the United States to compel Israel to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations related to the full withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories. The resolution reiterated support for Syria's just demands and its right to recover the occupied Golan within the peace process and in accordance with the resolutions of international legality.

Regarding the situation in Somalia, the Arab League Council called on all the Somali parties to use wisdom, exercise self-restraint, stop fighting each other immediately, and implement the national Somali reconciliation agreement signed on 27 March 1993 in cooperation with the United Nations, the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Council asked the secretary general to hold the necessary consultations with the United Nations, the concerned regional organizations, and all the Somali parties to resume the political process in Somalia and achieve unity, security, and stability for its people.

The Council reaffirmed its former resolutions on extending humanitarian aid to Somalia. It called on the member countries to transfer their financial aid to the Somali Support Fund at the secretariat general and to provide the latter with lists of the aid that the member states are giving to Somalia.

The resolution also thanked the secretary general for his efforts on this matter and asked him to continue his efforts and to present a report on the situation in Somalia at the next Council session.

The Arab League Council expressed satisfaction with the agreement of all parties in South Africa to set April 1994 as the final date for holding the first general democratic elections in the country.

The Council underlined its support for the UN resolutions on continuing the various pressures on the South African regime until a democratic and nonracist government is established that will guarantee the rights and interests of all the citizens of South Africa.

Requests Permanent Security Council Seat

NC2209055193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 22 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM today reports that the Arab League Council, at the conclusion of its ordinary session yesterday, called on the UN Security Council to observe the need for just representation of various international groups and for the Arab group to have a permanent seat in the Council, particularly if Japan and Germany obtain permanent seats.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Accord, Border Talks

JN2109180993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Jordan Television, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks dealt with various aspects of the relationship between the two sides after the Palestinian authority assumes power at the start of the interim period.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] I would like to divulge to you something about the secrets of the [peace] talks. The Israelis argued that the issue of sovereignty, just like the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, and refugees, must be relegated to the final status negotiations. We rejected this. This is because we believe that sovereignty is unnegotiable.

Sovereignty is a right to be enjoyed by the people living on the territories; i.e., the Palestinian people. What we agreed to discuss during the final status negotiation is the

issue of borders; hence, the provision enshrined in the agreement stipulating that borders will be decided during the final status negotiations. It goes without saying that borders cannot be delineated except between two independent entities. That is why we said that the issue of sovereignty is unnegotiable. This is because sovereignty is a right over which there can be no negotiations. However, we were willing to discuss the issue of borders. This is the importance of the agreement.

I would like to repeat here that the agreement covers not only the areas of Gaza and Jericho. The agreement provides for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as a first step. However, the authority of the Palestinian Council will be initially manifested in the assumption of several functions, such as health and education, among other things, four months after the withdrawal is started, or when the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is completed in July, as agreed upon. The assumption of functions will be completed when the elections are held in July, as I have said. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

JN2209075393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Sep 93 pp 1,10

[Text] Amman—Jordan has responded positively to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) requests for assistance in the fields of security, training and organisation in the run-up to the implementation of the Israel-PLO agreement on Palestinian autonomy, a senior PLO official confirmed Tuesday [21 September].

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, addressing a press conference shortly after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left after two days of talks with His Majesty King Husayn, gave a highly upbeat assessment and prediction of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the Middle East peace process.

He said the work of joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees will be speeded up and will deal with all aspects of coordination.

"We have found Jordanian sincerity and willingess to provide support, encouragement and expertise," he said. "The door is now open for closer coordination in all areas and fields, and this will be discussed by the joint committees."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the PLO's Information Department and a close confidant of Mr. 'Arafat said the Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord would insist on as much economic and political independence as possible from Israel despite the Jewish state's strangehold on the occupied territories.

He indicated, however, that the Palestinian options were limited, given the dependence of the occupied territories on Israeli infrastructure and economy brought about by 27 years of occupation.

"We have no water, no power and no communications of our own," he said. "This is the reality today and we have to overcome this and assert our independence. There are hard times ahead."

But the dependence on Israel will not stop the Palestinians from "insisting on our independent choice," he said. "The Palestinian (self-rule) authority will have the final say," in priorities for development and economic rebuilding in the occupied territories, he added.

The Palestinians will convey this message and state their position during a meeting of international donors to be held in the U.S. next month, he said.

They will also present their request for $6 billion over three years in development assistance from the international community as opposed to the $3 billion in 10 years envisaged under a World Bank report on rebuilding the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said.

"Jordan will have a big role to play" in the rebuilding process, he said, without elaboration.

At another point, Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the Jordanians and Palestinians faced "two options: Either we immediately start discussing visions for future ties and ignore immediate practical issues or we start from the level of coordination that we have established in the last two years."

He was referring to the proposal for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, which the King and Mr. 'Arafat have said could be discussed only after the Palestinians regain their total rights and are able to exercise the freedom of choice. Jordan has said Jordanians also have to be consulted over the proposal.

Replying to a question on how the Palestinians viewed the prospect of a confederation with Israel, Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh said it was not an idea being entertained at all.

The PLO official, in comments obviously aimed at countering opposition to the agreement seen by hardliners as falling short of Palestinian aspirations, said the accord should not be characterised as limited to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"The Gaza-Jericho plan only implies the extent of immediate Israeli withdrawal," he emphasised. "The accord clearly states that the (to-be) elected Palestinian (self-rule) council will have control over the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip in nine months after the council is elected."

Addressing another key issue of concern to Palestinians, Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh said one of the priorities of the PLO was to negotiate the "modalities" of the return of up to 875,000 Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war.

"For the first time in 22 months of negotiations, Israel has agreed to include the principle of the return of the refugees," he said. "There is no question over the principle of the issue. We now have to negotiate the modalities."

He said a joint committee comprising Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians will discuss the issue of the displaced people," 99 per cent of whom are in Jordan and Egypt."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh did not directly address the fate of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war, but he indirectly criticised Lebanon which has assailed the agreement since it did not address the issue of the more than 300,000 Palestinian refugees from 1948 now living in Lebanese territory.

"Lebanon should have welcomed the agreement since, for the first time, Israel has accepted to include the issue of refugees and displaced persons as an issue in the negotiations," he said.

In a leaflet distributed at the press conference, the Palestine Democratic Union (FIDA), a political party founded several months ago in the occupied territories under an initiative undertaken by Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, called for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 194.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh was asked what guarantees the Palestinians had that the accord, signed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House in a ceremony attended by Mr. 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, would be honoured by the Israeli side if there were to be political changes in the Jewish state.

He replied: "It is not a simple Israel-PLO agreement. The fact that it has been countersigned by the co-sponsors (of the Middle East peace process), the U.S. and Russia, makes the document an international contract which will be binding on the parties who signed it."

However, he said, the "best guarantee" was the support of the Palestinian people at large.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh declined comment on the Syrian position on the accord. He would only say that "Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has said that he neither opposes nor supports the agreement."

The PLO official said the Palestine Central Council, a 100-seat body which liaises between the Palestine National Council and the PLO Executive Committee, would meet in the next two weeks to discuss and endorse the accord with Israel.

He invited the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, a fierce critic of the agreement, to attend the meeting.

"It is regrettable that our brethren in Hamas have rejected dialogue with the PLO," he said. "But we keep our door open for dialogue with all Palestinian groups within and outside the PLO umbrella."

Obviously directing his comments at Damascus-based Palestinian groups which are waging a campaign to foil the autonomy agreement, Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "There is only one Palestinian house, and that is the PLO house. All those who refuse to join the PLO house will be eventually left out and isolated."

Notes Message From King Fahd

JN2209084793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 93 p 28

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid and Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of the PLO Information Department, has challenged the Palestinian opposition to form a substitute leadership or create new dissidence within the PLO. He said the PLO is the origin and anyone who breaks away from it will be isolated. Let whoever wants retry his luck, he said.

Addressing a news conference at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman yesterday, 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized the independence of the Palestinian decision. Commenting on the financial and economic assistance to the national authority, he said: We do not want to replace political trusteeship with an economic one. Our options and decisions will be Palestinian according to our national interests.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings on the level of leaders the day before yesterday resulted in laying the bases for joint arrangements aimed at backing the PLO and helping it implement the first phase of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He added: We agreed to form Jordanian-Palestinian working committees and cooperation and joint work groups. We are seeking to establish a common economic market in the future.

'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed for the first time that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had received a message from King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, during the Arab League Council session in Cairo two days ago. He said: There are contacts between the PLO and the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, in order to begin a new era of Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

'Arafat's Request To Delay Elections Reported

JN2109112093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Sep 93 p 15

[Text] Amman—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has agreed not to hold elections in Gaza and Jericho before two years from now on condition that Yasir 'Arafat appoints opposition members in the Palestinian self-government.

Well-informed sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Palestinian president presented a request in this regard during his meeting with Rabin in Washington or the sidelines of the recent signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. The accord provides for holding such elections but without fixing a date.

Palestinian sources justify 'Arafat's request by saying that it aims at securing a majority of votes, which is uncertain at this time. This could be easier to achieve two years after 'Arafat's authority is established and after the citizens in the occupied territories are convinced of the benefits of limited self-government. These sources added: It seems that Rabin wants to involve the Palestinian opposition in self-government in order to convince it to stop its armed opposition to the accord and operations against Israeli occupation forces.

The same sources reaffirmed that 'Arafat presented four requests regarding this issue to U.S. President Bill Clinton, who approved them all. These are:

- The U.S. Administration should put pressure on Syria to prevent it from becoming a base for Palestinian opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli accord.
- Financial aid should be secured in order to render the accord a success.
- Political and financial support should be secured from Saudi Arabia.
- The U.S. Administration should do its best to expedite the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

UN Envoy on Financial Aid, Adherence to UN Principles

NC2209075993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qudwah, delegate to the United Nations, in New York by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo; on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Al-Qudwah] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, first of all, how do you assess the Arab support to the Palestinian people at a time when the latter are about to launch into self-rule?

[Al-Qudwah] As a matter of fact, it is not possible to separate the Palestinian issue from its Arab dimension. The Arab brothers have in the past provided, and are currently willing to provide, full support to the Palestinian cause and efforts. I would like to say that the need for this Arab support is now greater than ever. Right now, the challenge facing us is one of construction. We wish to see Arab capabilities helping us in all the political and economic fields. We are confident that the Arab brothers will support us now as they always have in the past.

[Al-Jundi] Your Excellency, the coming phase will see the convocation of an international conference aimed at providing assistance to the Palestinian people so that the self-rule process in Gaza and Jericho may get under way as a first step toward self- rule over all the Palestinian land. What assistance do the Palestinians hope for?

[Al-Qudwah] You know that the U.S. Administration has already taken an initiative in this regard. Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called for the convocation of such a conference on 1 October. We, naturally, appreciate this move and hope that it will produce an international commitment, or at least a commitment by the participating countries, to assist the Palestinians. We also hope that a major portion of the economic assistance will come from the Arab brothers.

[Al-Jundi] Will assistance come in any specific form, such as cash, or do you expect to receive various types of assistance?

[Al-Qudwah] As you may know, we will be starting our construction program from scratch. You and the listeners may know that Israeli practices in the past led to extensive destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure in the occupied territories. Therefore, we will need any form of assistance that we can get, be it cash grants, projects, or investment.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Qudwah, as the ambassador of the state of Palestine to the United Nations, you must be closely watching the international scene. The EC and Japan are two major economic players on that scene. What assistance do you expect them to provide? Can we say that the EC's turn in providing assistance has come?

[Al-Qudwah] This is true. As you may know, in light of the current international situation, we expect substantial and major contributions by the EC and Japan. Both have already voiced their desire to make such a contribution and we, of course, welcomed that.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, you have met with Gad Ya'aqobi, Israeli's permanent representative to the United Nations. Could you tell as about that meeting?

[Al-Qudwah] We were both invited to lunch by His Excellency Nabil al-'Arabi, Egyptian delegate to the United Nations. Ya'aqobi and I accepted the invitation. Naturally, over lunch we exchanged views on the political situation in general as well as the UN role in the coming phase. For our part, we made it clear that the developments that took place on the ground should be reflected in our work in the United Nations. This, in our view, calls for a change of attitude on both sides, not just one. Therefore, we expect positive changes to take place in the Israeli position concerning the United Nations and its effective participation in the political process and in the creation of the Palestinian self-government authority and the Palestinian national authority in the occupied land.

I would also like to point out that we continue to believe that the UN role concerning the Palestinian issue should continue until that issue is fully resolved. This means that we have to uphold UN principles concerning the fundamentals of a final settlement, specifically concerning the rights of the Palestinian people, the issues of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, and refugees, and other important matters.

So, the position is an even-handed and a correct one in our estimation. We are ready to deal positively with the developments that happened and let them reflect on our work. At the same time, we seek continued adherence to the principled stands formulated by the United Nations in previous years.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you very much.

[Al-Qudwah] Thanks to you.

Commentary: Accord 'First Step on Long Road'

JN2209091993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Brothers: [Words indistinct] the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First option. World public-opinion has viewed this agreement as a first practical step along the road toward achieving Palestinian-Israeli peace, and hailed it as the most important, vital development in the course of the Middle East peace process. The Palestinian people, along with the Israeli people, have received the news of the agreement, which [words indistinct] with great attention, viewing it as a fateful event concerning the future of the two peoples and the fate of the rest of the nations of the region. Despite all the suffering, it is hoped that the agreement, as a first step on a long road, will end the wars, suffering, affliction, destruction, and chaos that swept through the region and its peoples throughout the past decades. The peoples of the region also hope the agreement will chart a new course for a peaceful life and mutual, safe coexistence for everybody to serve all interests and the future of all.

During the meetings of the Executive Committee in Tunis 26-27 August under brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, with the attendance of the Palestinian negotiating team, the PLO accepted the Gaza-Jericho First option. This was in line with a commitment to the decisions of the Palestine National Council [words indistinct] national authority, and based on the information presented to the attendees—information gained by the Palestinian leadership after contacts and meetings with various international parties. It was also based on the draft declaration of principles, presented to the attendees, which includes establishing a Palestinian national authority [words indistinct] based on the Palestinian people's exercise of their right to control their land and resources and national self-determination. Full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho is an indivisible part of the full arrangements concerning all the occupied Palestinian territories. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman: Fatah Must 'Get Rid' of 'Arafat

PM2209092793 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 20 Sep 93 p 12

[Interview with Islamic Resitance Movement, Hamas, spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Renato Pera in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] Amman—[passage omitted] [Ghawshah] The so-called self-government in Gaza and Jericho is a trick. By this expedient 'Arafat thinks he has relegated the Palestinian question to the archives, but it is still very much an open issue. The world's press, manipulated by the Jews, is turning 'Arafat into a sort of living legend. When the truth emerges, the very grave danger hanging over the Palestinians will also emerge. The intifadah will continue and will not cease until the last Israeli soldier has left the last square meter of Palestinian soil.

[Pera] What do you find unconvincing about the Washington accord? What booby traps does it hide, in your view?

[Ghawshah] It is one big booby trap. The Israelis are trying to use the Palestinian cause as a bridge to extend Zionism to other regions. Rabin wants to extend his country not by military means, as Shamir tried to do, but by economic means. I recently took part in a Hamas delegation to Syria, Iran, Sudan, and Yemen specifically to explain to those countries' governments the risk they are about to run. In Yemen, we were offered a meeting of reconciliation with 'Arafat, but we refused. After the signature in Washington, such a meeting would have been meaningless, whereas it would have been very advantageous for 'Arafat.

[Pera] The fact remains that there were rumors circulating in Sanaa and Tunis about an accord between you and Fatah, the majority faction within the PLO.

[Ghawshah] There has not been anything official yet. It cannot be denied, however, that both we and they are seeking, at the present time, to start a dialogue in order to avert an extremely dangerous conflict within the Palestinian front. But, as far as we are concerned, any peace conference with Fatah must achieve another extremely important aim: It must get rid of 'Arafat and appoint an new interim president, while waiting for the one who is to be democratically elected by the Palestine National Council.

[Pera] We have seen many signs of tiredness in Gaza and Jericho. People seem to have a desperate need of peace and stability after so much violence.

[Ghawshah] Do not kid yourself that the people you spoke with represent the majority of Palestinians. Do not forget that the Palestinians do not live only in the territories: There are a further 2 million here in Jordan, 1 million in Lebanon, and the same number again in Syria. Let the United Nations organize a referendum among the 7 million Palestinians scattered throughout

the world and we shall see how many of them identify with the PLO. As for the "tired" and the "hopeful," you may rest assured that they will lose all hope and discover once more the energy to fight by our side against Israel as soon as they realize they have obtained nothing, absolutely nothing.

DFLP's Hawatimah Cites Syrian Hostility to Peace Deal

PM2109121593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 93 p 3

['Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Hawatimah: Forces Opposed to Agreement Enjoy Full Syrian Support"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Although U.S. President Bill Clinton urged Syria to "control the activities of the Palestinian forces opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement," there are indications that Syria is unwilling to abandon these forces and throw its weight behind the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, which is arousing numerous concerns, questions, and suspicions in Damascus.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has emphasized that "the forces opposed to the agreement enjoy full Syrian support and Damascus is resisting U.S. and Israeli pressures to halt the activities of these forces in Syria." Meanwhile, the Syrian media have continued to stress rejection of partial and separate solutions.

In a news conference held in Damascus yesterday, Hawatimah said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said when he received him the day before yesterday that "there is nothing worse than that agreement, because it does not achieve the minimum of Palestinian rights and it hits the Arab coordination launched at the Madrid conference." He also quoted Khaddam as saying that Syria "supports the Palestinian people's struggle to recover all their occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state," as well as saying that "resisting the agreement is the task of the Palestinian people and their institutions, and Syria supports all the Palestinian factions seeking to achieve this aim."

Hawatimah went on to say that Khaddam emphasized that "the United States and Israel are exerting pressure on Syria to halt the Palestinian opposition's activities, but Syria is adhering to its fixed position and the Palestinian people's right to express their views without any foreign interference. There is Israeli opposition, so why is Rabin not urged to suppress this opposition?" [passage omitted]

Khaddam recently received Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and affirmed to him "Syria's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," according to the Front's sources, which confirmed to AL-HAYAH that "Syria does not accept the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and believes that it is the Palestinian forces' responsibility to oppose and topple it. And that it will support all the Palestinian forces adhering to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence."

Hawatimah also said that the "national, democratic, and Islamic Palestinian opposition forces are currently working to form a broadly based front which will seek to topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement and work to guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights and the continuation of the intifadah." He warned that these forces "will break the arms of anyone who is going to work to suppress the intifadah." He stressed that the responsibility for the outbreak of Palestinian infighting lies with 'Arafat. He urged Hamas to "determine its position, namely whether to support 'Arafat or stand fully with the opposition, and not to fall into the trap of 'Arafat's informational and political maneuvers."

Algeria

TV Rounds Up Recent Security Incidents

LD1909202193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Sep 93

[Text] In other APS cables, it was learned from a security services source that policeman Bensaad Mesnaoud was killed by four armed men in front of his house in Boufarik last Tuesday [14 September]. There was also an assassination attempt against policeman Ahmed Addaoui the same day, by a terrorist group in the town of Boudouaou. The source adds that a 57-year-old war veteran was killed in Hidouci area in the Eucalyptus district [of Algiers].

APS also reported, quoting security services sources, that an arms trafficking network was dismantled by the security forces in Mila Province. Following this operation, eight people were arrested and the security forces seized 15 automatic pistols.

The same source mentions that five terrorists were killed by the security forces in Blida Province [no date given].

UGTA Warns Government Over Economic Policy

LD2109010093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] In the homeland, the national congress of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] ended its meeting yesterday by issuing a final communique. The communique stresses the congress's rejection of any excuse, under cover of the deterioration of the economic or financial situation, for government decisions that will lead to a further drop in the purchasing power of the workers and the deprived groups of the population.

The congress considers that the link of the national economy to the new international division of labor, although it is an economic inevitability, should not be an excuse, under any slogan, for abandoning national sovereignty in political decisionmaking.

Egypt

Syria's al-Asad Arrives in Alexandria 22 Sep

Mubarak Welcomes al-Asad

NC2209010293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Sep (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Alexandria this afternoon. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak welcomed President al-Asad at al-Nuzhah Airport. The two presidents embraced as soon as al-Asad descended from the plane.

President Mubarak accompanied the Syrian President to Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria, where the two leaders will begin their talks.

Also at hand to welcome the Syrian president were the Egyptian prime minister; ministers of defense, information, transport, and interior; Alexandria governor; commanders of the main Armed Forces services; members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council from Alexandria; Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish; and Egyptian Ambassador to Syria Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Accompanying the Syrian president is a delegation comprising Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah.

Mubarak, al-Asad Hold Talks

NC2209010793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a round of private talks at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this afternoon. The talks are scheduled to continue at a working luncheon President Mubarak will host for President al-Asad and his accompanying delegation. Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad are expected to hold an international news conference at Ra's al-Tin Palace this afternoon.

'Particular Importance' of Meeting Noted

NC2209132493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt Will Not Abandon Its Pan-Arab Responsibility Toward Its Arab Nation Until Comprehensive Peace Is Achieved"]

[Text] With every passing day, events prove that Egypt has absolute belief in peace as a firm strategy. Egypt will neither depart from this strategy nor allow anyone to deflect it. As part of this principled commitment, Egypt, through President Husni Mubarak, endeavored throughout the past years to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions.

It was natural for Egypt's sincere and earnest efforts, made in cooperation with all influential powers and the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, to produce positive results. This has been represented in the convening of the Madrid conference in late October 1991 at the invitation of the United States and Russia. The conference was followed by direct talks in Washington between each of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians, and Israel.

Egypt's intensive diplomatic efforts culminated in mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and a declaration of principles represented in the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, signed at the White House a few days ago before the eyes of the whole world. The agreement is the first step toward a just peace in the Arab region after about 45 years of armed struggle and mutual violence.

It is natural for the recent success in the Palestinian and Israeli arenas to serve as a motive for further efforts and contacts to score similar successes on all other Arab fronts, especially between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel, after the recent signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

Perhaps this is the chief concern of the Egyptian leadership at present. This week, President Mubarak received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and held with him intensive talks on how to advance the peace process in the Arab region. Today's working visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also falls within this framework. He immediately met with President Mubarak and they held intensive talks on the peace process in light of the recent positive developments concerning Israel and the PLO. The two presidents also discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in all fields.

Today's meeting between Mubarak and al-Asad acquires particular importance in light of the recent developments in the Palestinian arena and their direct impact on the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. In addition, the Egyptian-Syrian summit come days after the meeting between Mubarak and Rabin in Alexandria. The two leaders, naturally, discussed the Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and the possibility of reaching a Syrian-Israeli agreement in the near future within the framework of the comprehensive peace process.

The Mubarak-al-Asad meeting also follows on the Arab League Council's decision, which supported the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and considered it an important and positive step toward realizing the principle of land-for-peace. The step should be followed by swift steps on all other peace tracks to ensure a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

What the Arabs, all the Arabs, must know, is that Egypt, although preoccupied with its economic reforms to secure a better future for its sons, will never abandon its historic pan-Arab responsibility toward its nation and its fateful issues. Through President Mubarak, it will do all that it can on the regional and international levels to achieve a comprehensive political settlement ensuring the legitimate rights of all peoples of the region on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and UN Resolution 425, which demands an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Egypt will always be faithful to its principles and its Arab nation.

'Arafat Stops Over in Cairo En Route to China

NC2109123993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made a one-hour stopover at Cairo Airport this afternoon and then left for Beijing at the start of an Asian tour that will include China, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, who received 'Arafat and saw him off, said the tour's aim is to mobilize these countries' support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and their support for the Palestinian people inside the occupied Arab territories.

Sa'id Kamal said that the Palestinians have asked that the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee on the transfer of the self-government authority in Gaza and Jericho, the withdrawal of the Israeli military and civilian forces, and the replacement of them with Palestinian forces, meet on 13 October in Cairo or Ismailia and that the committee on the national government authority in the remaining parts of the occupied territories and the economic committee meet in Washington.

'Arafat arrived at Cairo Airport from Amman this afternoon aboard a private Jordanian plane following a one-day visit to Jordan.

Normalization With Israel, 'Arafat Protection Viewed

NC2109110893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Sep 93 p 9

[Excerpts] Cairo—Tomorrow the Egyptian Government will resume the process of normalizing ties with Israel with a meeting of the joint economic committee amid opposition by certain Egyptian ministers. The Egyptian Government is heading toward approving a request by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to reside in one of the official guest houses before traveling to the occupied territories.

The Egyptian-Israeli joint economic committee, which was formed after the signing of the Camp David Accords, will hold its meetings at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to discuss ways of bolstering economic and trade ties between Cairo and Tel Aviv 10 years after the freezing of the normalization process.

Informed political sources in Cairo said that the Egyptian Government's decision to resume the meetings of the joint committee represents a fulfillment of Cairo's promise to Israel to stimulate the normalization process between the two countries after progress was made in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. These sources said that the normalization process is opposed by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, Housing and New Urban Communities Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, and Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din. The sources stressed that the objections of the ministers are due to their conviction that Egypt's current capabilities are not qualified to confront "Israel's aggressive goals" behind the normalization process. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Government is considering allocating one of the presidential guest houses to Yasir 'Arafat in accordance with his request to reside in Cairo for two months before leaving for the occupied territories to run the affairs of the Gaza Strip and Jericho. AL-SAFIR has learned that the Egyptian Government intends to approve the request.

A source close to the Egyptian Presidential Office said that the government realizes 'Arafat's fear of assassination and his reliance on the ability of the Egyptian security authorities to ensure him sufficient protection, which cannot be provided in Tunis. Visitors to 'Arafat's new headquarters must have approval of the security authorities as an Egyptian crew will run the headquarters affairs, including preparation of food and other residence affairs. Sources in Cairo affirmed that 'Arafat lives in real horror of the possibility of being assassinated by Palestinian opponents following his recent positions, capped by his signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement the day before yesterday.

Israeli Source Comments on Rabin-Mubarak Talks

NC2209105793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—An Israeli diplomatic source in Cairo has underlined the importance of the talks held between Prime Minister Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Alexandria on Sunday [19 September].

In a statement to MENA, the source said that Rabin underscored the significance of the Egyptian role in the Middle East, particularly regarding the peace process and reaching an agreement to expand the scope of peace.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations track and the talk on the signing of an agreement between Syria and Israel within six or eight weeks, the Israeli source noted that Israel is ready to pursue the negotiations. The source added that the Mubarak-Rabin talks in Alexandria mainly dealt with the Syrian position toward the peace negotiations with Israel.

Labor Party Issues Statement on PLO-Israel Agreement

NC2109180293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Sep 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] The Labor Party's Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting chaired by party leader Ibrahim Shukri. Participants discussed the declaration of principles seeking to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, called the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which is expected to be followed by other agreements with several Arab countries.

The Labor Party conferees agreed that the party's position on such agreements is based on three principles:

1. The Labor Party does not reject the principle of negotiating with Israel despite its aggression, tyranny, and lack of respect for UN resolutions. This proceeds from our adherence to our essential rights that cannot be conceded or neglected. We rely on the principle of demanding more than we hope for to leave room for bargaining over matters not regarded as basic and beyond concession. We also rely on using all possible means of pressure such as continued resistance to the tyrannical occupation and on permitting all loud, opposing, and rejecting voices to express their views publicly in order to strengthen our demand for inalienable rights.

2. The Labor Party does not look on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a purely Palestinian affair. The same applies to any other agreement between any Arab country with Israel. This is because the conflict is essentially an Arab-Zionist one and because Israel's objectives from withdrawing from some Arab territories is to implement political and economic expansion in the region with the aim of controlling its destiny.

3. The stance of the Arab peoples must not be restricted to merely commenting on what is happening or condemning the shortcomings involved. They must continue demanding their full rights and express objections to anything included in the imposed agreements that is likely to harm our nation, now and in the future.

A review of the published articles of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement shows that they offer no reassurance on any essential point of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Indeed the text's ambiguity is reflected in its lack of a clear Israeli acceptance of a full withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the future status of Jerusalem following planned talks on this issue. This renders the "land-for-peace principle" null and void.

The text's ambiguity and its shortcomings in specifying objectives and principles is designed to squander Arab rights. The only sure thing is that a local Palestinian administration with limited powers will be established on an area not exceeding 2 percent of our Palestinian land in return for abandoning armed struggle and making peace. This does not call for celebrations and festivals as if it were a total victory for the Arabs and Palestinians.

Additionally, reports carried by numerous foreign media about secret agreements complementary to the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles and the references in the agreement's annexes to a Middle East market rouse apprehensions and require the utmost caution. It is feared that the signing of the agreement will cause many other Arab countries to establish immediate political and economic ties with the Zionist entity without prior guarantees about total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The Labor Party urges all the Arab countries not to conceal agreements and positions so that these might be subject to free discussion between those who accept and those who reject. This urging is particularly relevant to the Palestinians to prevent their infighting, especially as the Zionists are seeking to sow discord in their ranks.

In concluding this statement, the Labor Party asserts that the results achieved by Arab rulers in recent agreements are the harvest of the ruling regimes' feeble and failed

policies that besieged the Palestinian people and their resistance. The only way out of this predicament is more democracy so that the Arab peoples can replace the feeble and colluding rulers and assume responsibility for their own affairs through free elections. Success comes from God.

Explains Rejection of Accord

NC2109211393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Sep 93 p 5

[Article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Labor Party's position on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington is known and declared. In one explicit statement: We reject the agreement.

From the first day, we explained that the economic aspect of the agreement is more dangerous than the political one. If the agreement entrenches the Zionists' control over the entire Palestinian territory, it, more seriously, opens the door for (Greater Israel) to expand under the excuse of the Middle East market. We are not discussing and rejecting merely written texts. These texts would not have been written and signed had they not reflected the existing balance of power (the control of the strong over the weak). The lack of balance gave the Zionists and the Americans the upper hand, forcing the Arabs to sign unjust and humiliating agreements. It is this lack of balance that enables the enemies to implement what has been signed.

In our opposition to all this, we do not cry or scream, nor do we feel content with merely issuing statements. It is our duty to struggle with blood and sweat to change the miserable situation of the Arab regimes. It is our duty to change the balance of power so that the believers will have the upper hand. This is the task of the Arab and Islamic peoples in general, not only the Palestinians.

I believe we must get closer to the details to see what is coming up:

—In the political arena: It is known that the declared arrangements regarding the Palestinian self-rule give our kinsfolk in the West Bank and Gaza limited powers for five years after which Israel is not committed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Israel recognized the PLO not as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but as a party representing the Palestinians (this means other parties may be established and win Israel's recognition if the PLO leadership hesitates to do what Israel asks it to do).

According to the text and logic of the agreement, the participation of PLO cadres in the self-rule institutions is subject to the Israeli veto. A large section of PLO cadre consists of refugees who left Palestine either in 1948 or in 1967. The problem of the latter has not been decisively solved in the agreement, and the problem of the former is even more difficult. If these people are mentioned in the Israeli security lists as "terrorists," then they will be subjected to further restrictions and blackmail. Only those who prove to have completely repented and have become obedient tools to serve the new situation can return.

The selection of officials for the self-rule bodies will, at any rate, be subjected to the opinion of the Israelis. It is known that the Palestinian police will cooperate with the Israeli security services to strip the Palestinians of their arms and pursue those who resist the occupation. Moreover, the Israeli settlements, with their heavily armed settlers, will remain in the occupied territories. If anybody protests or opposes the presence of the settlers, he will be punished. If the Palestinian police hesitates to punish him, the Israeli Army will immediately intervene (without the permission of the self-government); it will deploy anywhere and punish whomever it wants. The Zionist settlements will not be gradually withdrawn. Indeed, they will be expanded, and the Zionists will seize more land under the pretext of buying it (can anyone refuse to sell?)

This political situation is supposed to last for five years, during which the Zionists will endeavor to suppress opposition. By promoting some Palestinians and humiliating others, they will sow seditions and divide ranks.

—During the self-rule period, the Zionists will pursue their sly "stick and carrot" policy. The carrot is the hope that a state will be established after the years of self-rule if the Palestinians stop creating problems and meet all demands. The stick is direct killing and oppression against opponents.

—The Zionists are spreading news that Yasir 'Arafat may be killed by his companions (we pray to God this will not happen). But it is more likely that the Zionists will perform this mission because they will not forget their revenge against 'Arafat, and because they will want to create sedition. At any rate, those in charge of the self-rule will live in great fear all the time. They will lack any effective protection, and they will be surrounded by Zionists, any one of whom can use his gun to kill them. No security will be provided to any of these officials or his relatives unless he becomes an obedient tool. Decisions throughout the self-rule will be made under the constant threat of "implement or...[ellipses as published]

We move now to the economic part as reported in the "declaration of principles for the arrangements of Palestinian self-government" and in the "public" appendixes. We said that the economic part is the most dangerous. To this we add that the political restraints we referred to came to serve this objective, namely the establishment of "Greater Israel." The agreement spoke frankly about this objective and also spoke about the Palestinians' special role in it. Thus the declaration of principles spoke about the need to promote the "Marshall Plan" and the

regional programs that include programs for the West Bank and Gaza (Article 16).

First, we have to expose the falsity of some of these big words that are used nowadays.

This includes the "Marshall Plan" tale (the program financed by the United States to reconstruct Western Europe after World War II). This big word is now used to convince us that abundant benefits are waiting for us and that vast amounts of money will reach us from the "big seven countries" and the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries and that all the Arab countries will benefit from this if they enthusiastically participate in the "multilateral talks" with Israel.

This brazen lie was not made in press articles but in the official text of the agreement and its appendixes. We say that this is a brazen lie because even if the United States wants to contribute, its economic conditions will not allow it to do so. As for Western Europe, the economic recession is pursuing it, too, and most of the surplus it can spare for abroad is going to Eastern Europe and Russia. Additionally, it is not enthusiastic about financing any major change in the Middle East (despite its importance for Europe) unless it takes part in drawing up its plans and unless it guarantees that the United States will not monopolize the situation. This is also Japan's stand (this happened when Germany and Japan were asked to contribute to the costs of the Gulf war).

Therefore, the talk about the flow of benefits with the "peace agreements" is mere travesty. If we take the figures, the plan announced by the EC Commission in Brussels says that the most that it will give will be $120 million a year during the period of 1994-1998. No other specific promise was made.

The irony is that a similar travesty was made after al-Sadat signed the Camp David Accords. They spoke then, too, about a "Marshall Plan" and al-Sadat called it the "Carter Plan" in honor of the then U.S. President. We know what was the result! We have drowned in debts and not in aid.

There is a final word: the Middle East market.

They are promising us that we will be part of a large, prosperous economic bloc. This is, in turn, a blatant lie because the fundamentals for establishing a market that will include the Middle East countries do not exist at present. A common market where goods and factors of production move freely cannot be established in the present conditions. Israel is the first to be frightened by this because if freedom of movement for the production factors is established then Arab manpower will flood it from everywhere and threaten its entity.

It might be said that what is meant is to prepare for the establishment of this market and not to start its immediate implementation. In this case, we say that this is also impossible because there is a condition for starting and planning the stages and policies (if the aim is to achieve benefits for all the parties), namely that the planning and understanding should be between equals. But to have one party carry missiles and nuclear bombs and ask the other parties to negotiate and reach an understanding is mere drivel. They might, with their power, impose arrangements that suit them but do not call what happens in this case the establishment of a Middle East market, in conformity with the known term used for various international blocs.

The last lie concerns the "Israeli economic miracle." Whoever said that Israel has achieved an economic and productive miracle? The growth rates in the Israeli economy were modest. Many industries would have closed down during the 1980s and until now had it not been for intensive government protection. The public budget, the balance of payments, and the standard of living would have collapsed and unemployment would have been aggravated (unemployment is now 8.45 percent of manpower) had it not been for bountiful aid (especially from the U.S. Administrations).

If the target is to deal with the Israeli economy alone, then we would have no fears about the outcome of the free competition between us and them. In the exchange of goods, most of Israel's products do not have clear relative advantages to make us import from Israel instead of importing similar products from Western, Japanese, or even Korean markets. If the matter is purely economic and a calculation of financial gains and losses, then we will find that it will be better for us to deal with the other markets (with regard to price and specifications), unless the products are of the heavy and difficult type, such as cement. But, I believe that we are good in producing this material and that we do not need to import it from Israel or elsewhere.

But, whoever said that the arrangements being prepared by the Zionists are based on pure economic calculations or on the basis of Israel's capabilities alone?

The "Israeli miracle economy" is a mere lie. However, the Israeli military threats and international violations cause real fears about the possibility of that country's expansion at our expense in order to establish "Greater Israel."

Here I explain: In their view, Greater Israel formerly required a territorial expansion (from the Nile to the Euphrates). In the past, expansion required actual military presence in the territories concerned. It was necessary for British forces to be stationed in India and Egypt if Britain wanted to be in control. Today, however, the United States (and other countries of the north) no longer need stationary bases on our territory to control us. Economic linkage and projected threats by missiles and planes are now sufficient to impose domination. This is the style of the Zionist expansion, and it will encompass an area extending, not merely from the Nile to the Euphrates, but from Morocco to Tehran! [passage omitted]

The agreement and its annexes were based on this view and gave the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza a dangerous and vile role.

The agreement and its annexes granted trivial and restrictive political powers to the Palestinians (as we have explained). In the economic sphere, however, it appeared that the Israelis were exceedingly generous and positively in love with the Palestinians!

The agreement and its annexes focused on developing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Statements abounded about this issue and it seemed that some Palestinian leaders believed the story. Some of them said: Developing the Gaza-Jericho area needs $11 billion over the next few years. The World Bank replied that $3 or $4 billion were enough.

Where was this doting love during the previous 26 years of occupation? Where was the care to develop Gaza and the West Bank? They seized the Jordan River waters by force and expelled the Palestinians in order to build settlements. They neglected public utilities and allowed health and education services to flounder. Now they are speaking of ending the injustice. The occupying state did not build industry, did not spend one dollar in the occupied territories, did not invest there, and collected taxes to cover its incidental expenses in the territories to avert any burden on the Israeli budget. It closed off the occupied areas and prevented any transactions with the outside world, subsequently monopolizing their market and exporting low-quality goods to them. Israel exploited cheap Palestinian labor to operate its projects. The laborers spent their wages buying what they need from Israel. This means the Israeli profited both ways. In the final count the average income in the occupied territories remained one quarter of the average Israeli wage!

Why then did the cry to develop the occupied territories abruptly appear? Why did the agreement and its annexes devote a large space to the details of the proposed projects? The aim is clear. They want to attract Gulf money (money for which their mouths water and for which they can find no substitute). They want to attract this money to Israel under the guise of developing the West Bank and Gaza. Even the World Bank's millions (which it announced it will provide) are actually Gulf money. The World Bank merely supervises their use.

A Palestinian development bank will be established to develop financial transactions with the outside world. A petrochemical industrial complex will be set up in the Gaza Strip. Oil and gas pipelines will be laid (all this will be done with Gulf oil and money, of course). A port zone will be built in Gaza that they are saying will be linked with the West Bank. Doubtlessly it will be used to export Gulf oil also (read annex III of the agreement).

It is interestingly amusing that this same annex speaks of establishing "joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial research and development centers" that will "provide guidelines for cooperation in the textile, food, pharmaceutical, electronics, diamonds, computer, and science-based industries." Do the Israelis need Palestinian technical expertise in the diamond, computer, and electronics industries? The matter is clear, of course. They do not need Palestinian technical expertise, but they do need brokers and commercial agents who will open up the Arab markets for Israeli industrial products. They want to help the Palestinian self-rule to acquire economic ventures in the Arab countries (after agreements are signed with these countries). According to some reports, the Israeli Government will assist in this policy through U.S. political intervention to improve relations between the Gulf countries and the Palestinians.

Linked to the above is the following: The two sides (the Palestinians and Israelis) will encourage working groups in the multilateral talks and coordinate their efforts to ensure their success. They will also carry out feasibility studies to proposed projects and will together encourage the region's countries to establish a Middle East development fund as a first step and a Middle East development bank as a second step (the text of annex IV).

Thus, Israel wants to grab the oil funds and wants the oil pipelines to reach its territories under the name of developing the occupied Palestinian territories. It wants to use the Palestinian expertise in opening the Arab markets. The Palestinian businessmen (particularly those residing in the United States) are now repeatedly invited to set up joint companies with the Israelis in the Arab countries, which will hesitate for a while before making direct deals with the Zionists. The declaration of principles stipulates that the Israeli Government will always set up a front with the Palestinian self-government authority in any contacts and talks held with the other Arab parties (Article 12).

But is it true that the self-rule will in this case be a political midget but an economic giant? Of course not. This economic role is governed by the military and political power of the occupation authorities (which will immediately strike at whomever violates the instructions). Despite all this, this is not the only restriction. It is explicitly forbidden for the self-government authority to benefit from any Arab relations or to unilaterally make any important economic decision. Any official assistance given by any government must go to Israel's general budget and the self-government is not allowed to conclude contracts or agreements for economic, financial, or trade deals without prior approval by the Israeli Government. Even exports and imports with the outside world must be done through the Israeli Trade Ministry. The foreign loans are also restricted by the economic, trade, and financial laws in Israel. Even the financial, economic, and trade deals with the Palestinians outside the self-rule areas are governed by arrangements to be laid down by Israel!

Where does the government of Egypt stand in all this? [passage omitted]

The government has rejected our logic and Mubarak has followed the path that al-Sadat had started. Mubarak used

the Egyptian role on the Palestine front (the primary front of the Arabs and Muslims) as he used it before on the Gulf front to serve the interests of the Americans and the Zionists. The result is what we see now in terms of collapse and humiliation in the agreements.

The Palestinian issue has been liquidated and the era of economic arrangements in the region has begun. But did they get the price of their collaboration or did they, once again, emerge from the festival empty handed, losing this world after having lost the afterlife. We have seen that President Mubarak was not invited to the White House festival, despite all he did to prepare for that day in terms of letting down the Arabs and Palestinians. The most dangerous thing is that our friends [in the Egyptian Government] thought that they would set up an alliance with Israel to lead the economic arrangements known as the Middle East market, only to find Shim'on Peres on the day of the festival saying clearly that their plan begins with a tripartite alliance made up of Israel, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, and Jordan. We have seen that the declaration of principles leads this alliance toward the Gulf states without Egypt. They even hint at using this bloc and its Gulf connections against the immediate Egyptian interests. There is talk (in the declaration of principles and its annexes) about pipelines and a canal between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, which poses a threat to the Suez Canal and the Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean] pipeline. What is certain is that the Palestinians and Jordanians have nothing to do with all this, which was imposed on them. It is simply a matter of sowing sedition among the Arabs to weaken them.

The government has gone berserk after what happened and the official media began to lament the luck of President Mubarak, whose contribution and the contribution of al-Sadat before him were forgotten by those celebrating at the White House. We are truly amazed by this. The lesson is over, and they still do not realize it! If you are expecting reward and credit from America and the Zionists, you will be disappointed. After giving them the opportunity to take over the region, how could you imagine that they will give Egypt any prominent place? Even if the ruler of Egypt is an ally or a collaborator, they still do not trust Egypt as a country. As for the ruler who let them in, they will dump him without mercy, after having accomplished the mission for them. Don't you understand?

But if you are expecting reward from your nation, it would be truly amazing. Your policy has led us to the fragmentation and humiliation of the Arabs and Muslims and to the isolation of Egypt. Do not say that the majority of the Arab rulers has followed your footsteps. Does the devil's temptation to all God's creatures mean that the devil is right? Let those who want follow the devil. Let them abandon Jerusalem and immerse themselves in a sea of vice and illicit wealth. As for God's dedicated worshipers, they will not give in to the devil's might and will continue to follow the straight path, struggling together as pious brothers until God finds a way out for us. God is great. God is great.

Wafd Party Leader Congratulates 'Arafat on Agreement

NC2209093793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Sep 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din yesterday received Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt. Kamal handed Siraj-al-Din a copy of the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles.

The Wafd leader asked Kamal to convey his congratulations on the agreement to President Yasir 'Arafat. Siraj-al-Din described the agreement as a step toward the full liberation of the Palestinian soil and the establishment of a Palestinian state. He also expressed his best wishes for the brotherly Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Campaign Against 'Arafat's 'Ingratitude' Criticized

NC2209102493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Sep 93 p 1

[Jamal Badawi editorial: "Egypt Does Not Need To Beg for Thanks"; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Frankly speaking, I did not like the criticism leveled at Yasir 'Arafat because he failed to mentioned Egypt's role in his speech at the White House ceremony of the signing of the peace agreement with Israel. Anyone who has followed some of our colleagues' emotional articles will have noticed that they began with blame and ended with accusations of ingratitude. This campaign culminated at the news conference 'Arafat held at the Ra's al-Tin Palace when some colleagues succeeded in "extracting" from him a statement stressing his appreciation of Egypt's role, "which no one can ignore." "The proof is that Egypt is the first country he has visited after his return from the United States." Only then, the angry writers who were disturbed by his failure to mention Egypt's role at the White House wedding reception calmed down.

These angry writers did not realize that their campaign looked as if it was aimed at begging a word of thanks. This begging is an insult to Egypt, which does not expect a reward or a word of thanks for its role in supporting the Palestinian issue. Egypt has not won this role with words and empty slogans but has inscribed it in the annals of history with the blood of its sons, the lives of its martyrs, and the sacrifices of every individual. It has not been a miser toward the requirements of the struggle, giving the last piaster from its treasury. [passage omitted]

If we view the subject objectively and without convulsion, we will discover that the proceedings of the White House ceremony required just what happened. Had 'Arafat spoken about the Egyptian role in his speech, he would have been obliged to mention other roles that contributed to what happened in one way or another. Nevertheless, the ceremony's proceedings required that Russia's role be mentioned although it did not play any role in arriving at the peace agreement. However, it is necessity that dictated the form of participation and not the substance because Russia has been a cosponsor of the

peace talks since the Madrid conference. Therefore, they brought the Russian foreign minister to deliver a speech at the ceremony for the sake of appearances and nothing else. Egypt's role does not need praise at such formal ceremonies. Egypt's status will not to be elevated if it is mentioned by Clinton, Christopher, and 'Arafat. Nor will it be downgraded if the ignorant ones fail to mention Egypt. Egypt is proud that the holy Koran mentions it frankly or implicitly more than once. Egypt is consoled that it lives in the conscience of every Arab and contributes to the building of his mental, cultural, and civilizational entity.

The river of Egyptian offerings will continue the march of goodness, love, and peace without halt or hesitation until God inherits the Earth and those who live on it.

Palestinians Urged To Back Agreement With Israel

NC2109141393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary: "Unique Points in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement"]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian issue is undoubtedly one of lost opportunities. Hence, the courageous step taken by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is a political and historic achievement for which he must be given due credit. He deserves to be hailed and esteemed for it because difficult issues always need those who can make courageous decisions to break the deadlock and initiate the first step. Regardless of how the agreement will fare, it reflects a realization of the reality and of dealing with it, and denotes political wisdom and acumen.

We will not go into the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and its repercussions, but it might be appropriate to note some observations that we believe to be extremely important for a fateful issue such as the Palestinian one:

1. What is happening now is a declaration of principles and not a final solution of the issue. This declaration is a step on the road to comprehensive settlement on all the tracks and is based on international resolutions, foremost of which are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and falls within the framework of the Madrid formula. The Gaza-Jericho First agreement is only a part of this declaration. The agreement is titled Gaza-Jericho First, which means that the establishment of the self-government authority will not end with Gaza-Jericho as the opponents of the agreement believe. This agreement is only the implementation of one of the four appendices of the declaration of principles: Gaza-Jericho, elections, eastern Jerusalem, and relations between the PLO and Israel, including economic cooperation.

2. The text of the declaration of principles dealt with the issue of territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem. This confirms that the new Palestinian authority will be set up on the ground and the real transfer of authority is linked to the other parts of the occupied Arab territories in their capacity as an indivisible single entity.

3. In this sense, the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the best peace solution and is a real prelude to just peace. The agreement does not ignore the fate of Jerusalem and its importance. Nor does it ignore the fate of the refugees and displaced persons, because the self-government agreement covers all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and is not limited to Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

4. The Gaza-Jericho agreement is, in fact, the implementation of the Palestine National Council resolution adopted in Cairo in 1974 to establish a national Palestinian authority over any liberated Palestinian territory.

5. Politics is the art of the possible. The Palestinian leadership has the right to seize its opportunity and test its options. The Palestinians also have the right to have the opportunity to prove themselves, show their ability to manage their establishments, and ultimately show their qualification to have their own state.

6. A settlement of a conflict such as that in the Middle East, which has seen four destructive wars, cannot be resolved in one day. Herein lies the importance of starting with Gaza and Jericho first so that mutual confidence and credibility between the Palestinian and Israelis peoples can be established.

7. The most important guarantee for implementing the peace agreement with Israel and for ensuring the legitimate Palestinian rights is to support the Palestinian leadership, back its agreement with Israel, mobilize the resources of all the Palestinian groups, and renounce the causes of disunity, threats, and distortion. Unity of ranks means victory for the peace battle, which is a long and arduous road. We have only taken a single step along this road. Hence, the Palestinian brothers have to resort to reason and wisdom and to give the higher interests priority over the differences and disputes because they have a long and arduous road to cross before achieving the national and legitimate aspirations for whose sake they have made precious sacrifices and are continuing to make sacrifices. [passage omitted]

Israel Urged To Ease Retaliation Against Resistance

NC2209070193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0604 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR states that certain incidents mar the signs of peace, which is looming on the horizon for the first time after dozens of years of hostility and bloodshed. Israeli aircraft still fire their bombs and missiles at villages in southern Lebanon, and martyrs continue to fall from Israeli bullets in the occupied territories. The paper says that Israel can exercise self-restraint or ease

its lethal deterrent in retaliation against certain enthusiastic youths who pelt stones and the legitimate resistance in south Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR says that Israel will lose nothing if it begins to ease its grip and change its harsh treatment of the people of the occupied Palestinian territories or cease its retaliatory strikes at Lebanese citizens, who are only demanding implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. The paper adds: Should Israel do so, it would contribute to propelling the wheel of peace and it will be the first beneficiary of peaceful coexistence. The paper calls on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to try this method at least to prove his good faith and build a modicum of the necessary confidence in such type of negotiations intended to reach a permanent, firm, and genuine peace.

Mubarak Receives Libya's Arab League Representative

NC2109084893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0833 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan permanent representative at the Arab League, at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning.

Al-Bishari Departs Cairo for Russia

NC2209090893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan representative at the Arab League, left Cairo this morning for Russia. President Husni Mubarak received al-Bishari in Alexandria yesterday.

IMF Approves New Agreement, Extends Facilities

NC2109055893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] After a day-long session yesterday, the IMF Board of Governors last night approved the new agreement between Egypt and the IMF. It is effective from 20 September 1993 to September 1996. In an official statement, the IMF declared it approved extending facilities entitling Egypt to withdraw 400 million special withdrawal rights units, worth around $569 million, to support the Egyptian Government's medium-term economic and financial reform program. The statement highlighted that Egypt made major progress in implementing its first program with the IMF.

Mubarak Comments on Terrorism, IMF Negotiations

NC2109165793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today handed out first class sports medals to the players of the military handball and soccer teams and for the under-20 handball team in appreciation for their winning the World Cups. [passage omitted]

In statements made after President Mubarak's two-hour meeting with the teams, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the press bureau at the presidential office, stated that President Mubarak said in reply to a question on terrorism that it is wrong to believe that this phenomenon is limited to Egypt because terrorism has become a world problem that is spreading in most countries. The president referred to the violent acts that occur daily in the U.S. state of Florida, the recent attempts to blow up a number of vital installations in New Delhi, and the violent acts perpetrated by the neo-Nazis in Germany. The president stressed that most of the terrorists in Egypt are criminals with records and that they are hired people, as shown by the large amount of foreign and Egyptian currencies found with them when they are arrested. He added that they do not hold any belief because what they do is to throw a bomb here or there in return for a sum of money. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak denied that the slums and unemployment are the cause of terrorism. He said: The whole world is full of slums. We have had these areas for decades, but there was no terrorism. Unemployment exists in many countries, and we have had it for years but the rate of unemployment in Egypt is much lower than that of developed countries such as Britain and Spain.

President Mubarak went on to say: What is happening in Egypt is the result of the presence of forces that are ensnaring young people and enticing them with money in return for perpetrating terrorist actions that we hear about from time to time. He added: We hear about all that happens because Egypt is free, contrary to other countries where terrorism has spread much more, but we do not hear about what is going on there.

President Mubarak praised the IMF's approval yesterday of the second stage of the Egyptian economic reform program in which 15 percent of Egypt's debts will be written off. He said: The economic situation would have deteriorated by now had it not been for the economic reform process that Egypt is implementing. He referred to the achievements made in the roads, electricity, water, and sewage sectors by Egyptian companies. He added that what Egypt has obtained through its negotiations with the IMF and world financial institutions will not be repeated with any other country in the world. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Suspected of Murdering Policeman Arrested

NC2109132293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Security men today arrested terrorist Mansur Abu-al-'Ila 'Arabi, a student in the Cooperative Institute in Asyut. A security source stated that this terrorist is wanted for the murder of

policeman Fayiz Jum'ah Radwan, from the State Security Intelligence force in Aswan. Forces from the State Security Intelligence and other security departments in Aswan conducted an intensive campaign that led to the arrest of the terrorist.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yemen's Basindwah, Salih Message

LD2109193793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the Yemeni foreign minister and personal envoy of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Brother Basindwah conveyed to the brother leader a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning a number of Arab and international issues and a confirmation of the stand of the fraternal people of Yemen alongside the great Jamahiriyah in confronting the coercive measures imposed on the Jamahiriyah as a result of the wrong UN Security Council Resolution No. 748.

Morocco

Filali: No Link Between Rabin Visit, Recognition

LD2109153993 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 21 (MAP)—There is no link between the recent visit to Morocco of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Israel, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali recently said here.

Answering a question by MAP correspondent here on Arab and international press reports that Morocco and Israel are about to open diplomatic relations, Filali said it was Rabin who asked to visit Morocco.

The Israeli premier came to Morocco to "explain the philosophy" of the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the issue of establishing bilateral diplomatic relations was never raised between the two sides, Filali said.

AL-THAWRAH Analyzes PLO-Israeli Agreement

JN2109113493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the Zionist entity's threat to the Arab nation has become greater and more ominous than it already was.

In the second part of its editorial signed by "an observer" published today, the paper said that the threat is basically directed against the first line cordon states and their heartland. Iraq is within the threatened states and could be at their forefront under certain circumstances.

AL-THAWRAH added that vigilance toward Zionism and the struggle against the Zionist entity's ambitions and against the aims of those who took care of it and extended assistance to it are an integral part of defending Iraq in the full sense of the term which implies national, noble, necessary, and holy defense.

AL-THAWRAH opined that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is, in fact, not an agreement because the Zionist will has dictated the concepts it wanted at this stage while the other side merely accepted what was dictated to it.

The paper said that the Zionist entity raises the following despicable motto above the door of the Knesset: "From the Nile to the Euphrates is the Land of Israel." This means that Palestine is only part of what they call Israel; that Palestine, within all of its geographic boundaries, is not large enough to accommodate all their aims of expansion at the expense of our nation and the land of the Arabs. The paper affirmed that the agreement did not include any definition or reference to the Zionist entity, which means that "From the Nile to the Euphrates is the Land of Israel" motto is still embedded in the mentality of Zionism and in Zionist policies.

The paper said that the Arabs stoned al-Sadat because he betrayed Egypt's covenant and heritage, betrayed holy Jerusalem, betrayed Palestine, the land of Jerusalem and the Arab people, and betrayed the Arab desire, of which Egypt's desire is part.

The paper asked: On what basis and why has 'Arafat recovered Gaza and Jericho? What are his circumstances and those of the Palestinian movement? What are the Palestinian people's circumstances in and outside of Palestine? How does 'Arafat define the present and the future? Does he deserve to be stoned by the Arabs and Palestinian or does he deserve a medal of appreciation? [passage omitted]

The agreement, which was called "Agreement on Principles," stipulated an autonomy in Gaza and Jericho under the protection and sovereignty of the State of Israel. It included many chapters on cooperation between the Palestinian autonomy representatives and the Zionist entity. What was revealed of the chapters of the agreement so far stipulates cooperation in the so-called development and regional development, establishing an information center, and other things. The agreement spelled out the names of some of these projects, such as the establishment of a joint basic structure. Naturally, the word "joint" does not imply equality between the autonomous entity and the Zionist entity.

The paper said: While the agreement is supposed to be a commitment by only the two sides, it stipulated within its "economic cooperation and joint projects" larger regional cooperation that goes beyond the two sides. Some expressions were introduced to mean others because of the absence of expressions indicating dual forms. [passage omitted]

When Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat signed the Camp David agreement after his visit to Israel, Arabs and Muslims everywhere raised a hue and cry, and he had to pay for it with his own life. The Arabs openly accused him of treason. Foremost of those who resisted his move were the Palestinian leaders, giving al-Sadat the most caustic epithets. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat himself attended the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit as head of the PLO and the Palestinian people's representative. The summit suspended Egypt from the Arab League and al-Sadat was boycotted politically after the failure of the summit's sincere attempts to persuade al-Sadat to return to the Arab path and reject capitulation and conceding the Palestinian cause.

The paper asked: Why did the Arabs and Palestinians stone al-Sadat despite the fact that he recovered occupied Sinai without directly paying anything in return? The Gaza-Jericho agreement paid so much that it is now overburdened with concessions.

The paper said: The Arabs, including the Palestinians, stoned al-Sadat not because he betrayed them in the matter of restoring Sinai by negotiations in exchange for concessions that are less than 'Arafat's concessions in his Gaza-Jericho agreement in terms of their regional logic, narrow, and faithless outlook. The Arabs stoned al-Sadat because he betrayed Egypt's covenant and heritage, betrayed holy Jerusalem, betrayed Palestine, the land of Jerusalem and the Arab people, and betrayed the Arab desire, of which Egypt's desire is part. [passage omitted]

Romanian Party Leader Signs Protocol, Departs

JN2109173793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Romanian Socialist Labor Party have signed a joint cooperation protocol. The protocol stressed the two parties' desire to promote militant ties and mutual respect and to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation between the friendly Iraqi and Romanian peoples for the sake of the victory of peace, socialism, democracy, and respect for human rights and dignity.

The protocol provides for the exchange of party visits and publications, and for cooperation in the press field. The protocol urges the popular and trade unionist organizations in Iraq and Romania to exchange visits, to cooperate with each other, exploit all national, regional, and international occasions and conferences to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, respect its sovereignty and independence, and to reject the blockade policy.

Ilie Verdet, leader of the Socialist Labor Party, signed the protocol for the Romanian side, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, signed for Iraq.

Romanian Socialist Labor Party leader Ilie Verdet and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a six-day visit to Iraq.

Iranian Shelling of Border Areas Protested to UN

JN1709154093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the United Nations the Iranian regime's shelling of border areas in northern Iraq.

In a protest note to the UN secretary general dated 9 September and distributed yesterday, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that on 27/28 August, the Iranian regime's artillery shelled the villages of Suna, Shiyurzah, Qam'af Akhurah to the northeast of Qal'at Dizah, the Sanskir region on the Raniyah-Qal'at Dizah Road, displacing the population and burning agricultural produce.

The Iranian regime's artillery, added the note, on 1 September shelled the villages of Miran and Darkar to the northeast of Banjwin inside Iraq, torching agricultural produce.

Iraq's delegate asked that his letter be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Regime, Iranian Shelling of Northern Areas Reported

NC2109180393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The regions of Sharawand, Khidri, and nearby areas have come under artillery fire by the fascist regime in Baghdad. The correspondent of the newspaper KURDISTAN NEWS in the city of Klar has reported that the artillery bombardment of these areas lasted for a few hours yesterday and the day before and did not cause any significant damage.

Meanwhile, the Iranian hostile artillery at midnight on 18 September bombarded the villages situated in the Banjwin region, burning a large number of farms. The Iranian artillery at midnight on 19 September shelled the area of (?Budir) in Qal'at Dizah. The hostile shelling did not cause any significant damage.

* Kurdish Sources Report Arrival of Kuwaiti Aid

93P50295A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 93 p 7

[Report by AL-HAYAH London bureau]

[Excerpt] Informed Kurdish sources have told AL-HAYAH that Kuwaiti aid has arrived in Irbil, northern Iraq, and been received by the Kurdish government. Kuwait thereby becomes the first Arab state to deal directly with the "government of the Iraqi Kurdistan region." The sources added that "the arrival of the aid had a widespread effect on the population's morale."

The aid arrived day before yesterday in 40 trucks carrying 800 tons of flour, sugar, and medicine. The Kurdish government has formed a joint committee with the opposition "Unified Iraqi National Congress" to supervise its distribution.

A Kuwaiti delegation including government officials visited Iraqi Kurdistan for the first time in August to participate in the 12th conference of the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by Mas'ud Barzani. The delegation met with Kurdish officials and its talks included the problems and needs of the region.

It is said that the "National Congress" intends to accept an official invitation to visit Kuwait soon. It is expected that it will discuss with [Kuwaiti] officials Iraq's situation and the possibilities of cooperation between the two sides in fields such as humanitarian aid to the Iraqis.

The Kuwaiti Government recently offered relief aid to Shi'ites who have emigrated from southern Iraq to Iran, and allocated three million dollars to aid for the Kurds of Iraq. [passage omitted]

'Udayy Said Appointed Commander of Army Division

NC2109180593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] In its issue published Monday, 20 September, the newspaper AL-MU'TAMAR [publication of the Unified Iraqi National Congress], quoting an officer in the Iraqi 2nd Corps, reported that Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, recently sent an official circular to the command of the 2d Corps appointing his eldest son, 'Udayy, commander of the 3d Armored Division. The same officer expects this appointment to be the first step toward appointing 'Udayy defense minister in the future.

It is worth noting that 'Udayy holds several senior positions, including head of the Journalists Association and head of the Iraqi Olympic Committee.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Accord With PLO

TA2109110593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0908 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the opening of the special Knesset debate on the Israel-PLO agreements—live]

[Text] Honorable President of the State, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset: The government today submitted to the Knesset the declaration of principles about the interim arrangements on self-government for the Palestinians in the territories, as well as the letters exchanged between Israel and the PLO and the agenda for the negotiations between Israel and Jordan. All the documents pertaining to the issue have been placed before the members of the House, and there is no other, secret agreement. Everything is out in the open and aboveboard. The government will ask for the Knesset's endorsement and will regard the Knesset's decision as a vote of confidence in the government and its resolutions.

Distinguished Knesset, in three days every Jew, wherever he may be, will observe the sanctity of Yom Kippur. On this day of national and personal reckoning, as the sun sets and we say the concluding prayer, millions of Jews in every corner of the earth, from Casablanca and Buenos Aires to Melbourne and Qiryat Shemona, will utter the prayer: As you close the gates, open them anew because a new day has dawned.

The Israeli Government today believes that with the beginning of the new year, a gate has opened—a gate of peace, a gate of blessing. As the prayer goes: Bestow peace, good, blessings, life, favor and grace, charity and mercy upon us and all the people of Israel. On the eve of Yom Kippur 5754, the Israeli Government presents the Israeli people with a chance for peace and, perhaps, for an end to the wars, violence, and terror. In the high holidays prayers we also say: who will live and who will die, who will perish and who will not, who will die by water, fire, or sword.

On this bitter day 20 years ago, we felt death by fire and sword on our flesh and skin. All of us, both religious and secular, left-wing or right-wing, Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of Israel experienced one of the toughest hours in our history as a state. In the sands of the Chinese Farm in the Sinai Peninsula, on the cliffs of the Mount Hermon on the Golan Heights, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the regular army and in the reserves, our best sons, used their bodies to block the waves of tanks and columns of soldiers that threatened our existence. In the battle to defend our lives and homes against the Egyptian and Syrian Armies, 2,569 IDF soldiers and officers fell.

Today, too, 20 years later, we anguish over the deaths of our dear ones and we share in the sorrow of the bereaved families, whose pain does not abate or the scars of their tragedy heal as years go by. On the eve of Yom Kippur, our hearts are with them, and so it will be forever.

Distinguished Knesset, the Yom Kippur War taught us as well as our enemies the limitations of military power and the possibilities entailed in a political solution. In the wake of the disengagement agreements we signed with Egypt and Syria, the interim agreement we signed with Egypt, and the IDF's withdrawal from Egypt and the heart of Syria, we knew and we know to this day long years of peace, quiet, and tranquillity in those two cores of fire and war. Thanks to the determination and initiative of the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin—and here with us is the Honorable President of the State, who was a full partner to it—the Israeli Government signed the first and unprecedentedly important peace treaty with Egypt. As for the Israeli-Syrian border, quiet and security have prevailed for almost 20 years and are enjoyed by the population of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, for over 100 years we have been seeking to build ourselves a home in the only place on earth that was and will be our home: here, in the land of Israel. For over 100 years we have been seeking to live here in peace and tranquillity, to plant a tree, to pave a road. For over 100 years we have been seeking good relations with our neighbors, a life without fear and dread. For over 100 years we have been dreaming and fighting. In 100 years of colonization, this land experienced a great deal of suffering and blood. We who came back home after 2,000 years in exile, after the Holocaust which sent the best of the Jewish people to the crematoriums, we who look for a harbor in the storm, a place to rest our head, we stretched out our hand to our neighbors, but this hand was rejected time and again. Time and again it was rejected, but our soul did not tire of seeking peace. Our life in this suffering land was accompanied by salvos of fire, mines, and grenades. We planted and they uprooted, we built and they destroyed, we defended and they attacked. Almost every day we buried our dead. One hundred years of terror and war harmed us, but it did not destroy our dream. We dreamed of peace for 100 years.

Distinguished Knesset, when it assumed office over a year ago, this government decided to put an end to the terror and war, to try to build a new world in the state, at home, in the family which did not know even one year or one month of its life in which mothers did not cry for their sons. This government decided to put an end to the hatred so that our children and grandchildren will no longer suffer the painful price of wars, terror, and violence. This government decided to safeguard their lives and security, to ease the pain and horrible memories, to pray and hope for peace. When we presented the government to the Knesset over a year ago, we said—and I quote: This government is determined to do everything in its power, to forge any path, to do everything possible and impossible for the sake of national and personal security, for the sake of peace and preventing war. We said then—and I quote: The road we will tread will be fraught with obstacles, crises, disappointments, tears, and pain. After all these, however, when we come to the end of this road, we will have a strong country, a good

country, a country in which we all share in the big effort and whose citizens we are proud to be.

We said then: The new government shares the current feeling among the people that this is an hour of great opportunities, and we will do everything not to miss the opportunities. We said then: We owe it to ourselves and our children to see the new world as it is, to study the dangers, check out the chances, and do everything so that the State of Israel becomes part of the changing world. We must rid ourselves of the feeling of isolation that gripped us for almost a quarter of a century. We must join the international march of peace, reconciliation, and cooperation that is currently storming across the entire globe. Otherwise, we will be the last and only ones waiting behind at the station.

We said then that the main goal of the new government will be to promote the making of peace and to take feverish steps to bring about the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We will do that on the basis of the Arab states' and the Palestinians' recognition of Israel as a sovereign state and of its right to live in peace and security. We sincerely believe that this is possible and imperative, and that it will come.

Members of the Knesset, we said then the following words—and I quote: The government will propose to the Arab states and the Palestinians to pursue the peace negotiations based on the format consolidated in the Madrid conference as the first step on the way to a permanent solution. We will discuss the implementation of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. We do not intend to waste precious time. Within a short period of time, we will open and pursue the talks in order to lower the flame of hostility between the Palestinians and the State of Israel.

The day we presented our government we also said: Holding such negotiations on the issue worry those among us who chose to settle in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. I hereby inform you that this government, by means of the IDF and the other security forces, will be responsible for the security and welfare of the inhabitants of those areas.

On the question of Jerusalem, we said that this government, just like all its predecessors, believes there are no differences of opinion in this House over the eternalness of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. United and unified Jerusalem is not negotiable and will be the capital of the Israeli people under Israel's sovereignty and the subject of every Jew's yearnings and dreams for ever and ever.

Members of the Knesset, 14 months ago we presented an IOU to the Knesset, the voters, and the Israeli people. We promised to try to bring peace to this land. In the time that has elapsed since then, we did not close any doors or miss any opportunity. We checked out every crack and hint. We did not forestall any chance of attaining peace or interim arrangements that would offer a normal life to both peoples in this land.

We conducted negotiations with the delegations of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. During the negotiations, and in fact from their beginning, it transpired that the only address for negotiations with the Palestinians was PLO-Tunis. We could have behaved like ostriches; we could have lied to ourselves and buried our heads in the sand. We could have claimed that Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and others represent the residents of the territories while ignoring the real party that stood behind them. We decided not to behave in this manner. We knew very well who stood behind them, and the Israeli public is also perfectly aware of this. We have no desire to deny the fact that this is a merciless terrorist organization, an organization that dispatched the terrorists who murdered the children in Avivim and Ma'alot, who shot the guests in Tel Aviv's Savoy Hotel, who attacked the innocent victims riding the bus on the Tel Aviv-Haifa coastal road, and who committed hundreds of other acts of murder and terror. This organization has shed the blood of hundreds of our beloved citizens: the blood of Smadar Haran's family in Nahariyya; the blood of 'Ofra and Tal Moses, members of the family of Abie Moses from Alfey Menashe; the blood of innocent people whose only fault was being Jewish.

Knesset members, we cannot choose our neighbors and our enemies, including the cruelest of them. We must deal with what we have: the PLO, which has fought against us and against whom we fought. Today we are looking for a way to achieve peace together with this organization. We can shut all the doors, cease any attempt to achieve peace. Morally, we are entitled not to sit at the negotiating table with the PLO, not to shake the hands of those who have wielded knives or pulled the trigger. We could have rejected the proposals of the PLO with disgust, in which case we would have unwittingly been among those responsible for the continuation of the vicious circle in which we have been forced to live so far: war, terrorism, and violence.

We chose to adopt another way, one which offers a chance and hope. We decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people to the negotiations in the framework of the peace talks. We have known, and we still know, what a heavy load we are carrying from the past. We took this step only after the PLO undertook, in its letters to the prime minister, the following: recognition of Israel's right to live in peace and security and a commitment to settle any future controversy by peaceful means and through negotiations. The PLO has undertaken to denounce and put an end to terrorism and violence in Israel, in the territories, and elsewhere. I want to say here that since the agreements were signed, the PLO has not carried out even one act of terrorism. The PLO has undertaken to enforce an end to terrorism and violence by its members and to punish the violators. The PLO has undertaken to renounce the clauses of the Palestinian Covenant that negate Israel's right to exist and the peace process and to bring about their formal cancellation by the pertinent institution.

In Washington, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres signed on Israel's behalf the declaration of principles agreement for the interim period only. This agreement, which permits the Palestinians to run their affairs, safeguards the following issues for Israel: Unified Jerusalem remains under Israel's rule, and the body that will run the lives of the Palestinians in the territories will have no authority over it. The Israeli settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will remain under Israel's rule without any change whatsoever in their status. The authority of the Palestinian council will not apply to any Israeli in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The IDF will continue to bear overall responsibility for the security of the Israeli settlements in the territories, the security of every Israeli staying in the territories, and for external security—namely, for the defense of the current confrontation lines along the Jordan River and for the Egyptian border. The IDF will deploy in all areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District on the basis of these missions. All the issues pertaining to the permanent arrangement will be put off for the negotiations that will begin two years after the date stipulated in the agreement, while preserving the Israeli Government's freedom to determine its positions regarding the permanent solution. This means that the declaration of principles leaves all the options open on this issue.

The agreement on the interim period in Gaza and Jericho will be implemented before the establishment of the elected Palestinian council, which will direct the affairs of the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The council will be established only after we agree with the Palestinians about its structure, composition, and functions. The target date for elections is nine months after the declaration of principles goes into effect. Israel will regard the Gaza-Jericho First stage as a sort of test of the Palestinians' ability to implement the agreement on the declaration of principles.

I would like to repeat here what I said in Washington last week—and I quote: We are destined to live together on the same soil, in the same land. We, the soldiers who have returned from the battles stained with blood; we, who have seen our relatives and best friends killed before our eyes; we, who have attended their funerals and cannot look into the eyes of their parents and their orphans; we, who have come from a land where parents bury their children; we, who have fought against you, the Palestinians; we say to you today in a loud and clear voice: enough of blood and tears, enough. We harbor no hatred towards you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, to live with you side by side, in dignity, in empathy, as human beings, as free men. Today we are giving peace a chance and saying to you in a clear voice: enough, no more.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, we have no intention or desire to hide the truth from the Knesset members and the Israeli public. In addition to the great advantages, the expected peace also harbors dangers. We are aware of these dangers and will do everything necessary to minimize them. At the same time, we believe the risks are calculated and will not harm Israel's security and existence. In any event, the might of the IDF—the best army in the world—is available for our use if, God forbid, we are faced with such a challenge. Today we are looking forward to the good chances, to days without worries and nights without fears, to a developing economy and a prosperous society. If and when the long desired peace arrives, our lives will completely change. We will no longer live only by our swords.

On the eve of the New Year, after 100 years of violence and terrorism, after wars and suffering, today there is a good chance to open a new chapter in Israel's history. There is a chance for putting an end to tears. Flower buds and new horizons are opening up for the Israeli economy and society. Above all, I want to tell you that this is a victory for Zionism, which is now recognized by its most adamant and bitter enemies. There are chances for good relations with our neighbors, for an end to the bereavement which has afflicted our homes, for an end to war.

I call on all the Knesset members to give us an opportunity to exhaust this great chance. Knesset members, let the sun rise. My best wishes to you and all of Israel for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Netanyahu Speaks Against Accord During Knesset Debate

TA2109150993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0947 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Speech by opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu during the special debate on the Israel-PLO agreement at the Knesset in Jerusalem—live; Netanyahu's speech is intermittently interrupted by heckling]

[Text] Honorable President of the State, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset Members, Mr. Prime Minister: I listened to your remarks very attentively. You painted a generally rosy picture, not on every point, but generally rosy. You spoke of a new era, a new reality in the Middle East, and conciliation with sworn enemies. You said this is a gate to peace and a gate to a blessing. I must say that your remarks were compatible with the natural inclination which prevails in this nation—I would not say in all nations, but in most nations, including the Jewish nation, for sure—the aspiration, the yearning, the deep craving for peace. There is not a single one among us who does not hope that this peace is attainable.

Mr. Prime Minister, in reference to the demonstration by 40,000 people opposed to this agreement, you said yesterday: A single tear of a bereaved mother is not equal to even 40,000 demonstrators. The meaning was clear. You surely meant to say that your sincere objective is to remove from the Israeli people these tears, the bereavement, and the pain that hits every house, including and especially the houses of the demonstrators who include many bereaved mothers and many fighters who lost comrades and who are seized with a great deal of worry

that this agreement will lead to a sea of tears. Therefore Mr. Prime Minister, the hope that this basic and positive turning point will lead to peace is shared by all. Still, Mr. Prime Minister, a policy is not built only on hope. Policy is not built on faith alone. It is built on hope and faith too, but primarily, above all else, policy is built on reality and on the foundations of reality. What divides us, Mr. Prime Minister, is the examination of reality. It is to be hoped that any leadership, being aware of reality, will navigate us toward peace, and not only peace, incidentally. There is a goal that comes before peace; life comes before peace. We want to give peace a chance, but we should first give life a chance. If a leader does not correctly identify reality, if a person leads us in winding ways not based on knowledge of reality and facts, if such a person brings us to the edge of the cliff, we will crash. On the other hand, if a leader takes us in a cautious, careful, and responsible manner, while being aware of reality, then we will be able to reach our destination.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am not impressed by the public rejoicing you generated. You generated an enormous amount of public rejoicing. You enlisted many in the nation's media to this end. You generated enormous amounts of rejoicing and celebrations as if we were standing on the threshhold of a new era. Mr. Prime Minister, I am not impressed because such overjoyousness existed already. Similar overjoyousness was heard 21 years ago concerning the Vietnam agreement. The United States brought about a historic peace treaty with North Vietnam. There were celebrations and festivities. But not long after the signing of the treaty North Vietnam trampled over South Vietnam and violated the treaty. All the joyful outcries did not prevent the massacre of a nation or of 3 million Cambodians. Nobody prevented it. There was rejoicing then, too.

This is why, Mr. Prime Minister, your rejoicing indicates nothing. It gives no indication as to whether what we are dealing with here will yield negative or positive results; whether it will lead to peace or to disaster. We witnessed similar incidents in this century, and not just the one I mentioned. There were others. The path itself must be tested. Where does it lead? What did you sign? What are the consequences of your signing? Only this test will show the people of Israel whether you stand on the solid ground of reality or are just walking on air; whether you are sober and realistic statesmen or mere dreamers.

I will start at the beginning, in the introduction to the agreement which says it all, or almost everything, and I quote: The Government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian team representing the Palestinian people agree to recognize their mutual legitimate and political rights. Mr. Prime Minister, what are the legitimate and political rights of any nation? A state. What are the legitimate political rights of the Israeli nation? A state. What are legitimate political rights of the Palestinians? A state for them, too. And you gave this away not as a beginning of an agreement, but even before the negotiations on the permanent arrangements have started.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I must address myself to a phenomenon we have been witnessing in the behavior of the media over the past several weeks. This is an unprecedented phenomenon. We are witnessing the nearly absolute monopoly of a single position. That is why I was glad last night when the honorable president of the state called me to say he would be present during the first hours of today's Knesset debate. He did not say, and he did not have to because he is an excellent diplomat, that by being present he intends to allow—at least at the beginning of the debate—the prime minister and the head of the opposition to make their statements in a slightly different manner than this house is accustomed to. The prime minister knows that the way the opposition treated him here this morning is significantly different from the way you, members of the coalition, now behave. What you are doing is an attempt to prevent the people from hearing a stand different from your own made from this free podium. You will hear it whether you like it or not.

The government not only allowed a promise to establish a state in the way the introduction to agreement is phrased; in the agreement itself it presents the structure of a state. A state and any government is made up of three arms: judiciary, executive, and naturally, above all, the legislative arm, which is the most distinct mark of sovereignty. The three are mentioned in the agreement. The authority of the legislative and executive arms applies to the entire territory, including state-owned lands. When you make an agreement that gives away territory, the legislative power over it, and—I add—the powers of security in the territory, you are creating the structure of a state.

Naturally, you deny this. You say: We have never agreed to and will oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state. Incidentally, Mr. Prime Minister, I noticed that in your speech today, you did not reiterate your opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state. So you deny it in various forums. I believe that everyone here has been to a zoo once. When you walk into the zoo and see an animal that looks like a horse and has black and white stripes, you do not need a sign to tell you this is a zebra. It is a zebra. When you read this agreement, even if the words Palestinian state are not mentioned there, you do not need a sign. This is a Palestinian state. This is where you are leading us.

I have not spoken to Kissinger, but he said: This is a Palestinian state. I did not talk to him. He simply read the agreement. I did not discuss this matter with senior commentators around the world; they simply read the agreement and said: This is a Palestinian state. Mr. Prime Minister, I did not speak to the International Olympic Committee, but two days ago it invited the State of Palestine to the coming Olympic games. Believe me, they were not influenced by Likud propaganda. They read the agreement. They whole world read the agreement and the whole world knows—the Americans, the Europeans, the Arabs—they know and you know too.

You know and you are denying it because this agreement paves the road to a Palestinian state.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am sure everyone is aware of a basic document that paved the road for the establishment of the Jewish state, the Balfour Declaration. It was not even an agreement. It was a declaration of intent. Britain declared that it supported the idea of establishing a national home for the Jewish people, that is all. And I ask you: Had the Balfour Declaration stated that Britain grants and hands over to the Jewish people the judicial, executive, and legislative arms, control over the territory, and control over security in the territory; had Britain added an agreement on mutual political rights between the British and the Jewish people, would anyone have had any doubt that this was a recognition of a state?

Mr. Prime Minister, this agreement goes much farther. Yes, you can keep denying it and shake your head, it will not change the truth of which the entire world is aware. The agreement lays the foundations for the establishment of the Palestinian state. The fact that you ignore this, try to blur it, the fact that you and your friends here know the truth and try to hide it is in itself a sufficient cause for the Knesset to reject this agreement outright. But there are additional reasons.

What territory are we speaking of? I heard you now. You said this is a test. We will have a trial run in Gaza and, as you describe it, the tiny area of Jericho. Why do you say this? You read the agreement, approved it, and signed it, did you not? This is not a process of testing, stopping, examining the results and seeing what is next. Foreign Minister Peres recently called this an experimental farm. There is no experiment or pause here. What we have here are three quick steps with no safety breaks, in which we will evacuate the entire territory, except for the settlements, within two years. Gaza and Jericho in four months; this is true. In nine months it will be Gaza, Jericho, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Janin. I can go on counting all the populated regions. Let us face the facts. Do not talk to us about Gaza and Jericho, talk to us about the facts. You are evacuating the entire territory, and what is left there, including state-owned lands, goes to the PLO and the PLO's political council. The only thing left for debate in the permanent arrangement stage—and not in our hands as well—are the settlements, the Army bases, and Jerusalem. Also there is the question of refugees that we will soon discuss. What you do, in fact, within two years, is transfer to the PLO the entire territory up to the 1967 lines. The meaning of this can be clear if you only look out of this house's windows. Looking straight out the window you can see the area that, according to this agreement, belongs to 'Arafat. You can see the Bethlehem ridge and churches, which reminds me: Christians are currently fleeing Bethlehem en masse. The meaning is as follows: Those who came here on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway could see that the road goes along the 'Arafat border, and at one point it even crosses his territory—in the tiny enclave of Latrun, if I may use your language, Mr. Prime Minister. Further down the road, it nearly touches the Ben-Gurion International Airport that I believe you are all using. Another place I have visited is the last house of Kfar Sava—it is 200 meters from the border of 'Arafat, according to the agreement you signed.

Now, I would like to address the security meaning of the agreement you signed. It primarily means that 'Arafat's territory will be running along 361 winding km's of a border that touches upon our towns and villages. This is not the current 100-km-long border along the Jordan River where we have to prevent the infiltration of terrorists. Now we have 361 km of border which touches and in some places even cuts through our settlements. And who controls the security there? According to the new phrasing, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is in charge of the external security and can reach the settlements, but 95 percent of the territory—now in the hands of the PLO—is controlled by the PLO. What would happen if there is a terror attack here, and the terrorists flee into that territory? The IDF cannot go in there. It is forbidden. You have to beg Mr. 'Arafat, ask him to locate the fugitives for us.

Mr. Prime Minister, let me tell you: I am astounded that you signed this agreement. I am astounded that you did not show it to IDF officers and that the General Staff was not given the opportunity to look into the accord before it was signed. I am astounded because we already have a precedent. I am astounded that you agreed to an agreement none of us would agree to in Lebanon. Lebanon is not Israel. There is no autonomy there. In Lebanon we have a security zone, we cross it, operate there, shoot, attack, foil, and as my colleague, Knesset Member [MK] Begin, said here, we sometimes take preemptive steps because terrorism is not merely hot pursuit, it is preemptive steps. We did not restrict ourselves in any way in Lebanon. What did you do? You have built a Lebanon here, alongside our cities, in the heart of the country, and you tied the hands of the IDF and the security services.

This agreement relinquishes the safety of the citizens of Israel and transfers the responsibility to the hands and good intentions of Yasir 'Arafat. But, Sir, the most cynical, despicable, and even most contemptible thing this agreement does is to knowingly abandon the 130,000 inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, who are Israeli citizens. In the agreement, you promise to defend them. How will you do that? You say that the IDF can enter the settlements. Good. The IDF can move along the roads. Good. But an attack on Bet El will not come from the local community center but from Ramallah. What will the IDF do, travel there like traffic police along the roads and arrive at Bet El's community center, look around, and confirm there was an attack? But when we will have to chase after the gang we will not be able to do so. Will we turn to 'Arafat? Is that a defense arrangement? Do you think you are deceiving anybody? Do you think you are deceiving them? These are people who serve in the IDF, they are top commanders in our elite units. They know the truth. If you cannot enter the territory, you cannot defend Jews, neither on this side of

the Green Line you want to set up nor on the other. Furthermore, you say: Unlike Menahem Begin, we have not uprooted settlements. That is true. At Camp David, he had the courage to do something very difficult. He told them that 3,000 or 4,000 people will leave. But you do not have the courage, because 130,000 people are involved, which is something else altogether. What do you want? You want them to leave, to dry up, to be chained, to run away. That is the worst thing. You are cynically abandoning their security and then you say they are not sufficiently Zionist, that they do not hold onto the land.

Mr. Prime Minister, there are thousands of children there, thousands of babies. You talk as though you care about the nation, that the nation is one. But you made an accord with the PLO to abandon that sector of the nation, and whoever abandons a part of the people ends up abandoning the whole nation. You shake your head. The settlement of Efrat can be let go; 130,000 people is a minor detail. Abandoning our best commanders there is a minor detail. Their tears is a minor detail. There has been an ongoing process since the establishment of this government to delegitimize, even dehumanize, that patriotic public, which is part of us. I would like to tell the MK's something: I do not want to associate it with the prime minister, but I would like to talk about it with all those involved in this debate, as well as the media. There is a limit. There are limits to the wild attacks when supporters of the accord publish in Tel Aviv's HA'IR newspaper a front page showing a Jew wearing a skullcap settling like a beast of prey. Mr. Prime Minister, HA'IR published that, but one thing you did not do, you did not denounce it. I am speaking to you and all the members of your government, and those who are shouting here--stop shouting, address your shouts to that newspaper, your supporters, who deal with such despicable things. It is unbelievable that such things, which Julius Caesar did not do, should occur in the Jewish state.

Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to touch on something else, something which is not unimportant. You said that you would not make concessions on Jerusalem, but these are empty words. You said you would not talk with the PLO, but you did. You said that you would not recognize the PLO, but you did. You said you would not yield on the Jordan Rift Valley, no you have not. Tell me, Mr. Prime Minister, where is Jericho? On the mountain slope? You said that you would not give up the Golan Heights, except for several centimeters. Are you prepared to repeat that declaration here now? No. If you are, tell me. I will hand over the podium immediately. But you are not prepared to do so. You said you would not yield, and yet how you yielded. Mr. Prime Minister, let us see how you keep that promise. The agreement says Jerusalem's fate will be brought up for discussion in two years. In this agreement you already say that Jerusalem Arabs will participate in the election of the autonomy institutions, in other words, in the PLO's institutions. You have made it clear that by participation you mean the right to vote and be elected. At the outset of this government, you said you would prevent such participation and that Faysal al- Husayni would not participate in the peace delegation. What happened to that promise? It was washed away. Recently, I heard Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Mr. Peres' deputy minister. Mr. Prime Minister do not take it personally, but recently I learned that I should listen to Beilin because whatever Beilin says, Rabin later does. What did Beilin say? He said that we will divide Jerusalem into boroughs. There will be a Palestinian borough, in other words, a PLO borough. Did you reprimand him? Did you dismiss him from the government? Did you utter a single word? You did not, but one of your ministers—'Uzi Bar'am—did reprimand him. How did he reprimand him? He said: I am opposed to those remarks by Yosi Beilin because they hand the right-wing opponents of the accord a case.

Minister Bar'am does not oppose the idea of a Palestinian borough. He is opposed to the timing, because it should be done in stages, to use salami tactics, as is the case with the Golan Heights. The division of the city is taking place before our eyes. I invite the MK's this afternoon, tonight, or tomorrow morning to go to Ramat Eshkol or Talpiyyot, and see the lines of cars bearing PLO flags and the people shouting with joy and waving flags. They shout not only Long Live the Palestinian State, but call for the liberation of Palestine with blood and fire. Which Palestine? There? No, here. Did you do anything about it? Did you remove any of the flags? Not the flags in Talpiyyot, but from the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Did you do anything about it? No. That is the case not only today.

Using your methods, your salami tactics—I am going to say something that will shake this house—the day is not far off when 'Arafat will come here in a luxury convertible, go from Jericho up to Temple Mount, and raise the PLO flag and say Temple Mount is in his hands. What will you say, Mr. Prime Minister? Mr. Prime Minister, it is impossible to rely on you to defend the integrity of Jerusalem just as we cannot rely on you to stand firm on any of your principles because you do not have a grain of shame or care whatsoever about the Jewish people's right to its land. What you are doing now in relation to Jerusalem and Eretz Yisra'el will affect not only this generation, but all the coming generations of Jews, who will settle the historic account with you.

Mr. Speaker, one does not have to be a prophet to forecast what will happen in this region after the Palestinian state is established. You say that it will be a small state, but it will not stay small. It will bring down Jordan. I heard the foreign minister talk about a confederation with Jordan. The Jordanian Government knows very well that it will not remain intact. The Jordanian street is a Palestinian street. We were witness to that in the Gulf war. 'Arafat will swallow up Jordan, abolish its Army, and when he has a state he will arm his military forces and then expand them as much as he likes. He will be able to form pacts with whomever he wishes—with Iraq, with his ally Saddam Husayn, and his other allies in Iran.

With your own hands, you are creating territorial contiguity from the suburbs of Tel Aviv to the outskirts of Jordan, to Iraq, and up to Tehran.

Mr. Prime Minister, I asked you once on whom you are counting. I reiterate the question now. Who are you counting on? On 'Arafat's promises? You cited 'Arafat's promises here on this podium a few minutes ago. He has already violated these promises. You cited documents linked to the agreement and an appended letter to the Norwegian foreign minister. 'Arafat made a commitment to denounce terrorism on all public platforms. He had a public platform, one he has never had before, the White House, but he did not utter a single word about terrorism. Later he had countless platforms in the United States, but said nothing on terrorism. I have not heard a single word from you about that blatant violation of a firm commitment.

Later, 'Arafat promised that the intifadah would cease, but his deputies announced two days ago that the intifadah would continue, in total contrast with 'Arafat's promise. As long as the occupation lasts, the intifadah will continue. You did not even say anything about that violation. Did you call on him to change the clauses in the Palestine National Covenant? To rescind the clauses which call for the destruction of Israel? He did not revoke them and you did not insist on it. We have to understand him and not pressure him, you say. Mr. Prime Minister, I ask you: Why the haste? Why did you not consult anybody, why did you rush ahead to present it to the cabinet? You even presented it to the White House before the Knesset. Dr. Kissinger said that Shim'on Peres has been emotionally uplifted.

Mr. Prime Minister, I repeat, why the haste. I would like to provide an answer, in fact two answers. The leaders rush ahead in order not to give the people an opportunity to understand what is happening, to establish facts before we understand what is happening. Those being led say to themselves: If we do not move ahead we might have to look back, ask questions, and study things. God forbid, looking back we might see that everything has collapsed. We might realize what you have done for the foundations of this Palestinian state and its army, its capital, and its right of return, which has also been incorporated in this agreement. It is a right of return for the displaced of 1967 during the autonomy stage, later there is a right of return to the state. Will you be able to prevent it then. You say there will be a debate, but they will demand arbitration. Will you be able to say no to arbitration? Which international arbitrator will not rule in favor of the poor displaced people who were allegedly uprooted by force from their homes. All arbitrators will give them whatever that want. In this agreement, you leave an opening for the land being overrun with hundreds of thousands of refugees. If 'Arafat decides, their numbers will be even higher than that. That is the demand of each Palestinian child.

Mr. Prime Minister, you can bury your head in the sand, but you must know with whom you are doing business. You can leave the plenum, but you have to realize with whom you are dealing. This is a government that is prepared to accept any lie, any deception, any perfidy by the PLO. This government must lift its eyes for one moment and sees the facts, and stop the witch hunt in the Knesset.

Some of you are telling the truth. You say: If we prove mistaken then we will really show them. Then we will tear them apart. Then we will use all our force and cancel the whole thing. I would like to remind you that countries are not so easily erased. Saddam Husayn tried to obliterate Kuwait but failed. We have a problem with a country I mentioned earlier, Lebanon, and none of our actions, none of our military operations, not even 1,000 military operations by Israel, will obliterate that country. The moment that state is established it will become an irreversible fact. Therefore, when you discuss making such a decision here in the Knesset, and I am not only talking to the members of the opposition but also to those coalition members.... [pauses] And at this moment, there is no one present here who is more decent or courageous than Shlomo Hilel [Labor MK], who stated things clearly yesterday when he said that this was the seed of the Palestinian state. This is the beginning of the Palestinian state. He chose his words carefully but he spoke the truth. This is not a question of opposition or coalition, it is a question of our historic responsibility to prevent a historic turning point that could spell disaster for the Israeli people and forever live in infamy.

Mr. Chairman, there is a fundamental difference between the two of us. You claim that true security is based on peace, whereas we know that the only kind of security possible in this region is through peace based on security. That is why we exert constant efforts to magnify our power, to expand, and not to limit, the IDF's scope of action. We seek to strengthen, not weaken, our hold on the land. We should increase immigration to Israel, not Jewish emigration from it. We should divert resources to absorb this immigration and not run around the world canvassing resources for the return of the PLO refugees. This is because we know that our strength, the IDF's prowess, and the economic, democratic, and military power of the Jewish state is the real guarantee of peace. We know that a process of conciliation with the Arab world has begun. We were the ones who led this conciliation. We know that by taking this step you are moving things backwards. You are strengthening our enemies and weakening Israel. You are giving them more land while reducing our territorial scope. You are leading to capitulation, the loss of territory, and retreat.

I ask myself why are you doing this. It is because you are suffused with belief. I started off by talking about belief and have now returned to that subject. You are full of belief, convinced that whatever happens, peace is on the way. You fully believe in the promises made by 'Arafat, promises that he never kept nor ever intended to keep. However, we are also suffused with belief. We believe in the people of Israel and their tremendous spirit. We fully believe in the Israeli people's yearning for redemption and

their desire to establish a country here for millions of Jews, a country that will be a safe refuge not only for our generation but also for future generations. Because we believe in the Israeli people, in their good sense, and in their right to decide their fate, and since you have broken every single promise you made to the people in the last elections, I call on the prime minister, who has already left the plenum hall, to give the people, and not the members of the Knesset, the final say on this matter. The people, not the Knesset. If new elections are held, the people will be able to decide, and not just with regard to this agreement but also with regard to the kind of leadership you have demonstrated, as well as your ability to stand firm on the issues that the Israeli people hold dear.

I heard the prime minister say that he had come here to receive the Knesset's vote of confidence. It is not the Knesset's vote of confidence that he needs, but, rather, the people's trust. His responsibility is to go to the people, first of all, with regard to this agreement and the agreements that will follow in its wake. Also, with regard to the way one should handle those questions we know have yet to come, such as the question of the Golan Heights. And above all, the question of who will handle these matters, and who can be trusted to do the job right and keep his promises. If we really seek to answer those questions we must hold a national referendum in the real sense of the word, and this means new elections. If you have true national responsibility you will do this.

Mr. Speaker, I demand that the number of catcalls made during my speech be compared with the amount of heckling during the prime minister's speech. I want the two speeches to be compared, and I want the conduct of the coalition in and out of the Knesset to be examined. I call for an examination of the way the government and the coalition savagely put out, silenced, and suffocated any attempt to voice a stand opposing theirs, and the way you interrupt every sentence or utterance I make. This shows, more than anything else, that you are afraid that the public might hear the truth and judge it independently.

Mr. Prime Minister, my last appeal to you—though you are not here because you do not want to listen, but I hope you will hear this—if you have true national responsibility to the public, if you are genuinely honest, if you and your associates realize the grave meaning of the fact that you are gambling with the life of a nation—you, Mr. Prime Minister, and you, Labor MK's, must do the minimum demanded of you: Go to the people and ask for their confidence in new elections! If you do that, the people will know how to decide because this nation knows what is good, safe, and important for it, and is able to distinguish between 'Arafat's promises and peace based on its own power, confidence, and future.

Thank you.

Rabin Says No Corridor Between Gaza, Jericho

TA2109161293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says there will be no corridor between the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and any Arab who wants to travel between the two areas will have to receive a special permit from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that answering questions posed by Labor faction members, Mr. Rabin emphasized that in the issue of the right of return, Israel only committed itself to the reunification of immediate family members, and this also only in predefined quotas. Rabin said that since we are human beings, we must act humanly in this issue.

Clarifies Status of Holy Places

TA2209055693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear to the religious factions that all holy places will fall under Israel's responsibility during the interim arrangement period. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister emphasized that all arrangements in the Cave of the Patriarchs for example, will be valid also under the interim arrangement. The prime minister said that in view of reactions in the territories, the current assessment is that the PLO will be able to win a clear majority in the elections to the autonomy's council. Rabin emphasized that there is a good chance for the implementation of the agreement since this is a clear interest of the Palestinians, as well.

Foreign Ministry Issues Directive on Meetings With PLO

TA2109164293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Sep 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev and news agencies]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Foreign Ministry yesterday gave permission to Israeli ambassadors abroad to meet with PLO representatives in countries that have not recognized "the state of Palestine," while forbidding such meetings in countries that have recognized this state.

This distinction will enable meetings between Israeli and PLO representatives in most West European countries, in the United States, and the United Nations, while preventing such meetings in third world countries. The intention of this directive is to distinguish between the PLO, which Israel has recognized, and the Palestinian state, which Israel does not recognize.

Political sources in Jerusalem say that Israel's attitude toward PLO embassies abroad will have to be discussed in the framework of the negotiations over the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First plan. According to the agreement of principles with the Palestinians, Israel is responsible for managing foreign affairs in the interim

period. Therefore, PLO representatives abroad will not be able to represent the Palestinian self-government, even if it is composed only of PLO personnel. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have started discussions aimed at preparing the upcoming negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians, and the PLO. Israel will not formulate its final positions before receiving information on the positions of the senior PLO echelon. In the meeting held between Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in Washington last week, it was concluded that the PLO will convey to Israel its proposals regarding the format of future negotiations.

Sources in Jerusalem believe it will be necessary to split the negotiations with the Palestinians into two parts: One part, which will be devoted to the issues of Gaza and Jericho, will be held in the region—in Tabah or Cyprus. The Israeli delegation to these talks will be largely made up of military men who will discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deployment and security activities in the Gaza and Jericho areas. The second part of the talks will continue to be held in Washington, to discuss the expansion of the self-government to other areas in the territories, as well as holding elections in the territories. Meanwhile, the IDF, Israel Police, as well as the Foreign, Defense, and Finance Ministries have been holding discussions in Jerusalem in anticipation of the negotiations about Gaza and Jericho.

The sources in Jerusalem also believe that the format of the negotiations with Syria will have to be reexamined in this forum as well as in the meetings Peres will held at the end of the month in the United States. The sources believe that the United States, which is seeking to promote the negotiations with Damascus, will strive to attain Israel's consent to an intensive shuttle trip between Jerusalem and Damascus in a bid to reach a declaration of principles between the two countries.

An initiative to integrate Israel into the Arab League was raised at a convention of the Swedish Socialist Party in Goteborg. 'Ofer Deqel, a representative of Labor's Young Guard, and Samir Subihad, a young representative of the PLO, were the guests of honor in the convention. The two decided to meet in Tunis in two weeks, and issue a joint call on the Arab League countries to integrate Israel into its ranks.

Gaza Attorney Supporting Peace Accord Murdered

TA2109195693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Attorney Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, one of the main leaders of those supporting the peace agreement, was murdered tonight in Gaza. He was shot near his home. According to one report, his murderers are Fatah members who oppose the accord.

'Abd-al-Shafi Condemns Killing

TA2209094493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has condemned the murderer of Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, one of the leaders of the supporters of peace and one of the PLO political committees' leaders. Abu-Sha'ban was assassinated in Gaza last night, after participating in a rally of support for the agreements with the PLO. 'Abd-al-Shafi told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that he has reservations about any violent act that disrupts the peace process.

Demjanjuk Expelled to U.S. 21 Sep

TA2209055193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] John Demjanjuk was expelled from Israel to the United States last night. A Qol Yisra'el reporter said Demjanjuk flew out after midnight on a regular El Al flight to New York. Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Demjanjuk's lawyer Yoram Sheftel said the judges' decision to clear Demjanjuk was leaked to him 12 days before it was made public. He again accused the prosecution of attempting to cover up evidence during the trial.

'Arafat Concludes Talks With King, Departs 21 Sep

King, 'Arafat Address Correspondents

JN2109123993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn led those who saw off His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, when he left Amman this morning after a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. The talks covered bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, especially concerning the peace process.

Also present at the farewell ceremony were Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, and a number of senior officials.

His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat spoke to correspondents on the results of the Jordanian Palestinian talks. In this regard, his majesty said:

[Begin recording] [King Husayn, in progress] ...for having this opportunity to meet with my dear and great brother, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, in his second homeland and among his kinfolk and brothers. I believe that our stand has been clear, and I would like to emphasize our full and absolute support for the courageous and responsible work, which, God be praised, has born its first fruits with the aim of recovering the rights of the people on their national soil. This visit has given us, here in Jordan, the opportunity on all levels to discuss everything, as the case should be among brothers; namely, with frankness. Our talks in all cases were based on absolute trust and a firm determination to work together for the benefit of future generations.

We express our utmost appreciation and thanks. Again I affirm our full support to our brothers and loved ones and the members of our one family...

['Arafat, interrupting] This is the most important thing.

[King Husayn, continuing] ...to which we all belong, especially Palestinians and Jordanians. We express our absolute support for them concerning their independent decisionmaking and our joint coordination, which is almost, as my brother has said, a cohesion transcending the limits of coordination because in fact it is a cohesion for the sake of our interests and future generations and their right to a free, decent life.

I am very thankful and grateful, and I have never been so relieved in my life because of this atmosphere, which, God be praised, is truly prevailing in our fraternal relations. Thank you. [end recording]

Answering a question, 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] First, I can proudly tell His Majesty King Husayn once again that through this good, blessed spirit, he is a guide for us and a path that enlightens for us the wide areas and great vistas toward a promising, bright, and unified future between us, God willing. With thanks and gratitude, I repeat what I said yesterday; namely, thank you, Your Majesty, thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. In the name of our people, in the name of our children, the children of the stones, in the name of our revolutionaries and strugglers, in the name of our women and masses, who are your own masses and people. We are one family, and we are proud of this connection that joins us and of these distinguished relations between us.

Concerning your other question on the talks: The talks were warm, brotherly, fruitful, strong and firm, and they will push matters more and more toward these wide vistas and broad future, God willing. [end recording]

Importance of Meeting Highlighted

JN2109092193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Palestinian Coordination Still in Good Shape"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with President 'Arafat in the capital of confrontation and steadfastness is a big step toward a new turning point and new formulas for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination based on mutual trust and real awareness of the requirements of this new stage.

His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinian option and independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

Since Jordan is linked to the Palestinian brethren by brotherly, pan-Arab, and historic relations and joint interests, then high-level coordination becomes a national and pan-Arab duty and an unavoidable and urgent need.

It is true that the leadership and people of Jordan have questions that need to be answered by the Palestinian leadership. Jordan, however, will not hesitate to continue support for the Palestinian brethren, extend strong bridges toward them, and continue high-level coordination within new formulas based on mutual trust and dictated by the requirements of this stage.

The King Husayn-'Arafat meeting should dispel the ambiguity hanging over the nature of coordination between the two sides. This meeting should also advance coordination between the two fraternal peoples in a way that reinforces the PLO's negotiating cards and enables it to work confidently and with high morale to restore its people's rights.

It is well known that Jordan has always supported the Palestinian brethren's just national struggle to restore their legitimate rights and crystallize their national identity. Jordan has also crystallized the Palestinian brethren's national rights, exposed Israel's ambitions to them, and stood strongly against these ambitions. It is also well

known that the Hashemites adhered to Palestine, and despite all pressures and threats, did not relinquish one iota of its sacred soil.

The late King Husayn Bin-'Ali sacrificed his throne for the sake of maintaining the right of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation to Palestine. The late King 'Abdallah sacrificed his pure soul for the sake of holy Jerusalem and its Islamic holy places.

These facts are well known to the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine and to the PLO, which highly values these facts.

President 'Arafat yesterday praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and continued support for the Palestinian people and the PLO.

What is important is that President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan—the country of confrontation and steadfastness—and his talks with his Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials reflect the extent of Jordan's willingness to continue all levels of material and moral support to the PLO. 'Arafat's visit also reflects Jordan's willingness to raise coordination with the PLO to the level required by this stage.

Visit Seen 'Crucial' to Peace Course

JN2109073393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 93 pp 1,5

[By staff correspondent Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The current round of talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat constitutes a turning point in Jordanian-Palestinian relations that will be crucial to the course of the Middle East peace process.

For despite the strong reservations expressed by officials from both sides about the historic accord between Israel and the PLO, the fact that the organisation is now formally taking direct responsibility for the negotiations opens new and wide options for a more sound relationship and a departure from the mutual suspicions of the past, officials and analysts say.

At the same time neither leadership can afford to ignore the wave of confusion and uncertainty that has swept both Jordanians and Palestinians since the disclosure of the accord, mainly due to the lack of close coordination and a shared clear vision of the future relationship, the officials and analysts maintain.

There are different interpretations, given by Jordanian and Palestinian officials, for the absence of close coordination and the failure so far to chart a common strategy for the future.

Some Palestinian officials maintain that what went wrong was partly due to Jordan's reluctance to discuss future confederation—prior to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank. On the other hand, Jordanian officials, including members of the peace negotiating team, counter that all efforts to promote coordination during the 23-month-old peace process were not taken seriously enough by the Palestinians.

Both arguments seem to underscore a basic difference in the attitude of the two sides towards their partnership, including the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which has separated following the Israeli recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people. The focal point of that difference is that while Jordan appeared keen to keep all of its future options open, the Palestinians' major concern was to assert an independent Palestinian identity and representation.

The Palestinians, particularly the PLO's concern, was to a large extent a reaction to long-term American and Israeli policies to exclude the organisation from peacemaking efforts in the region.

PLO officials and Palestinian negotiators concede that in their eagerness to preempt any attempt to prevent an independent Palestinian representation they did not give adequate attention to coordination with Jordan.

Moreover, some do not conceal the PLO leadership's erstwhile fears about the U.S. and Israel turning to Jordan as the only partner had the negotiations reached a dead end, and had Israel not talked to the PLO.

Throughout the negotiations, these were problems which partly revealed mutual suspicions but also the absence of a clear Arab negotiating strategy. These problems might have been swiftly contained by the two sides, but they were never properly addressed.

For example, reports about Jordan and Israel reaching an agenda during the seventh round (in October) had seriously alarmed the PLO leadership in Tunis, and a crisis was avoided only when the Jordanian government declared that it had no intention to sign the document prior to real progress being made on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Likewise, some Jordanian officials and negotiators did not hide their disappointment when news of an Israeli-Palestinian accord, that effectively exceeded an agenda, was being disclosed.

Consequently, the Palestinian leadership, or at least those involved in the secret negotiations that shocked the world, were determined to seize that moment when Israel was ready to recognise the PLO in order to assert the Palestinian identity in what they hoped would be an irreversible process.

In the bargain, the PLO leadership seems not to have given enough thought to the implications of the process on Jordan, especially in view of the fact that the majority of Palestinian refugees was residing in the kingdom.

According to one PLO official, the leadership was interested in reaching an agreement over future relationship

with Jordan prior to the secret negotiations with Israel. "But we were not ready to accept a return to the 1972 idea of a united Arab Kingdom, which many in the PLO believed was Jordan's favoured option," the official said.

Statements by both sides clearly indicate that neither side had in fact thoroughly studied the implications of any Israeli-Palestinian accord on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The two sides, according to Jordanian and Palestinian sources, had rarely discussed aspects of the status of Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

As a result, both parties, including those who were directly involved in the secret Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, were caught off guard when the Oslo agreement was reached.

His Majesty King Husayn has been trying to contain any damage that the accord might cause to the cohesion of the Jordanian society, by repeatedly and firmly warning against threats to national unity between Jordanians and Palestinians in the Kingdom.

For his part, Mr. 'Arafat has made many statements in appreciation of Jordan's stand and reiterated commitment to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

These statements were viewed as a good beginning, but as long as there was no agreement on a joint vision for the future and a common strategy, there would always be the danger that external forces might come to fil the gaps, the officials and analysts say.

In fact, the accord, which includes provisions that to a certain extent define forms and areas of Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli coordination, is only reinforcing mutual concerns that Jordan and the PLO could no longer postpone the urgent need to work together from now on, the officials say.

From the Palestinian viewpoint, including that of the opponents of the accord, without an adequate and clear agreement with Jordan, the agreement could be turned into an instrument to subordinate both Jordan and the PLO to Israeli interests and demands.

"This is a recipe for undermining prospects for Palestinian sovereignty and which could pose a serious threat to Jordan's national unity and stability," a prominent Palestinian, who is opposed to the accord, said.

Results of Talks Viewed

JN2209091393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 93 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Text] The talks between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Yasir 'Arafat provided a good opportunity for in-depth and frank discussions on all aspects of the current situation in the region following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and on the eve of a new stage.

The talks also provided another fresh opportunity for Jordan to emphasize to the Palestinian brothers its firm position, clear vision, and the sincerity of its support for the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, as the Jordanian policies and pan-Arab positions have always been toward the Palestine question, which is the national cause and daily bread for this big family.

Based on this, Jordan views the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed 10 days ago, as an agreement that has opened the doors for the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate rights on their national soil, a first step toward their return [to Palestine], and a chance to start meeting the brothers' ambitions and expectations of a better future.

We view such concepts in the agreement and assess the agreement in this manner because we are aware, as a result of our closeness and historical contacts with the sons of Palestine, that the majority of them really want to move to a new stage in which peace and stability prevail, and in which rights and human rights are maintained. This is what prompts us to stand beside them and to support their option and independent national decision.

Hence, we sincerely hope that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks were able to fill any possible gap in the historical and distinguished relations, and to further contribute to bolstering the vital confidence in order to proceed through this stage, which is full of promises and hopes, and at the same time is full of fears, apprehension, and anticipation, and which will also face difficulties, hardship and even invincible obstacles.

Need for Joint Cooperation Stressed

JN2209102793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Getting Ahead on Course With Rhythm"]

[Text] It is good news His Majesty King Husayn's talks with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have been successful in erasing all vestiges of all misunderstanding and hard feelings that the PLO-Israel accord had left in its wake, leading to a Jordanian pledge to extend full support to the PLO in its bid to implement its deal with the Israeli side. This is no small feat since the fate of the Oslo Palestinian-Israeli agreement still hangs in the balance and is dependent to a great extent on Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination.

The extent of the Palestinian dependence on Jordan was illustrated by Mr. 'Arafat's comments to the press Monday [20 September] when he said: "I am committed to confederation (with Jordan) because this is our political programme and I had been elected by our PNC according to this programme." Of course the subject of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations would have to be

determined by the two peoples at the appropriate stage. Nevertheless the aim and purpose of the PLO chairman's visit to Amman appear to have been achieved by putting the Palestinian-Jordanian traditional and interdependent relations on track again.

It goes without saying that in the wake of the signature of the PLO-Israeli deal and the Jordanian-Israeli accord, the need for full cooperation and coordination between the two Arab parties has reached a new height. Foremost on the agenda of the two Arab sides is the restoration of mutual trust and confidence on which future relations can be constructed and cemented. The renewed Jordanian commitment to the PLO could not have come at a more opportune time given the complexity of the implementation stage of its interim agreement with Israel on the basis of the Jericho-Gaza first formula.

Even more critical is what lies ahead after the implementation of the first stage in the Israel-PLO pact. This is where joint work would assume even a higher sense of urgency. The success or the lack of it of the initial part of the Palestinian-Israeli deal would determine the fate of the peace process in the area. As there is no way that the first chapter in the peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis can see the light of the day without a thorough Jordanian involvement, the fate of the final chapters in the Arab-Israeli peace treaties cannot be attained without an early and effective Jordanian participation and cooperation.

This much the PLO leadership must have sensed and acknowledged. The rush for a rapprochement with Jordan on the heels of their much celebrated deal with the Rabin government explains the urgency of the PLO-Jordanian talks Monday and Tuesday. True to form, Jordan was more than ready to extend a brotherly hand to the Palestinian people with whom it shares commonality of interests and aspirations. This time around, there is no more room for making mistakes. The PLO, in particular, should remain on course this time with full Jordanian cooperation by keeping the Jordanian government abreast of its plans and programmes be they political, economic or otherwise.

Opening 'New Chapter' Urged

JN2009191393 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 20 Sep 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "We Begin Anew"]

[Text] No one can claim that there were no hesitations in what used to be called Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, or that this coordination did not suffer a real jolt. This jolt confirmed first and foremost that old doubts and mistrust were the real framework of this coordination despite what was said about the special Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, the joint delegation, the [Jordanian] umbrella, and other expressions that preceded the Madrid conference and continued until the first report on the Norway talks was leaked.

Overlooking this fact and failing to consider it frankly and carefully will turn the next phase of coordination and joint Jordanian-Palestinian action into a mere continuation of social and political courtesy based on little certainty and a great deal of doubt. This may lead to results that are not in the interest of the Jordanians, the Palestinians, or the Arabs.

We believe that it is wrong to say that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will continue their consultations and coordination. A barrier was erected and a trench was dug. Thus, we must begin from square one, which is not wrong or dangerous. Honest dealing, real frankness, and joint care require that we should begin a new chapter, especially since no one can deny that the Jordanian side was disappointed. This disappointment may increase or decrease depending on the awareness of the disappointed party.

Moreover, this disappointment must be tackled not only by a shy acknowledgement that a mistake was made or that the Jordanians have the right to show reproof, but by a new start. This one family is extremely concerned about its unity and cohesion, and is ready to face any challenge, whether deliberate or not, which could adversely affect it. Moreover, this family is not in a position to buy anything sight unseen.

Awaiting the first step, represented by a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat, all people in this arena will continue to firmly, confidently, and faithfully stress their unity; they will also be more careful about any hostile attempt; and they will not be shy to acknowledge that they were offended. This offense, however, will not push them a step backward in terms of dealing with all brothers with confidence, with an open heart and mind, and with honesty that will make the nation's interests greater than the interests of the nation's countries and individuals. This country's pride in its kinsfolk and their unity, as well as in its leadership and its courageous and solid positions will remain impregnable to the enemies and those attempting to waylay this country.

Decision Said Made for 'Preventive' Entry Measures

JN2009143293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 32

[Text] Amman—A senior source has said that the refusal to let some residents of the West Bank enter Jordan across the bridges, depending on their age and business, is part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian decision designed to prevent Palestinian emigration from the occupied territories.

Commenting to AL-DUSTUR on the recent measures taken by the bridges security unit, which stipulate the return of people younger than 35 to the occupied territories, thereby preventing them from entering Jordanian territory, the source added: The facilities Israel has begun to give to Palestinian youths to enable them to

leave the occupied territories are aimed at evicting the Palestinian people from the occupied territories. This matter is extremely dangerous to the Palestinian people's future, he said.

The source added that these "preventive" measures were coordinated with Palestinian officials and were designed to encourage the Palestinian people to remain on their land.

Palestinians Said Due Social Security Compensation

JN2009144793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 32

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Amman—A responsible source in the Social Security Corporation has said that any person with Palestinian nationality has the right to obtain compensation and other rights from the Corporation if he has joined the social security plan.

Replying to a question posed by AL-DUSTUR, the source said that compensation will be paid immediately to anyone who holds Palestinian nationality. He noted that the documents now approved by the Corporation to prove Palestinian nationality are the green-colored bridge cards, or a canceled family registration book, or a temporary passport valid for two years accompanied by a travel ticket. Otherwise, no compensation will be paid to anyone, whether Palestinian or non-Palestinian, residing in the Kingdom. And such persons should prove that they want to depart the Kingdom, he added.

The source noted that the Corporation has thus far not received any information on the possibility of the return [to the occupied territories] of large numbers of displaced Palestinians participating in the social security plan. He stressed the Corporation's ability and readiness to face all possibilities.

Canadian TV Interviews King on Peace Process

JN2009201493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1922 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Interview with King Husayn by an unidentified Canadian Television reporter in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] I think I first want to ask you the last seven to 14 days have, by many accounts, been a remarkable time in Middle Eastern history. Can I ask you: Did you watch the ceremony in Washington? And how did you feel when you saw Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhaq Rabin shake hands?

[Husayn] I did watch the ceremony in Washington. And I felt that moment was one that essentially gave the way for many possibilities of peace in this region—an objective that we have always sought. The Israeli-Palestinian dimension of the problem has always been the most important one to address, and this shaking of hands heralds a new era, hopefully of peace in this region.

[Reporter] Do you fully support an independent Palestinian state?

[Husayn] As of 1974, I have supported this approach, that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and therefore its leadership, and the right of the Palestinians to recover their freedom, and their rights on their national soil is obviously an objective that we have supported all along.

[Reporter] Forgive me for asking your majesty, but some analysts have suggested that as Palestinians gain more autonomy, perhaps as they move in the future towards a Palestinian state, if that is to happen, that could pose some threat to Jordanian sovereignty. Is that something that you've considered?

[Husayn] I have never considered it as something to worry about. And in fact, if Palestinians have reached this point, or they will reach hopefully, really what they seek and what is their right, it will, to a very large extent, be as a result of our carrying them and supporting them in getting there.

[Reporter] Jordan has now signed an agenda for talks with Israel. How soon will it be before we see King Husayn shake hands with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Husayn] You will see that, hopefully, in the context of a comprehensive peace. And I really don't know exactly what timeframe we are talking about, what [changes thought]. I think that we can seriously begin to talk business regarding all the items on that agenda as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Can your chance of peace move forward with Israel....[changes thought] Could you have an agreement without, some way, resolving the whole question and status of Jerusalem? Could that be put off and pushed back?

[Husayn] I think that it is very, very important to set the lines of direction regarding where we go in that issue as soon as possible. But, here I'd like to differentiate between two things: One, some people have spoken about the question of recognition. For example, you believe that there is and has been an implicit recognition of the State of Israel and its right to live in peace and security since we accepted Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967. Now, we are beginning to talk, we are talking obviously with our Palestinian brethren, with the Israelis, and hopefully talks will commence between the other Arab parties to the conflict and Israel soon. We are talking the multilaterals. So, there is a question of time that will take us to move from this point to the point of normal relations in the context of peace. I hope that we can put it together before too long. And, I hope that I will see progress, serious progress from now on.

[Reporter] One of the major issues on the agenda deals with security and the control of eliminating mass

weapons of destruction. Israel has a nuclear program. It has denied having nuclear weapons, but many intelligence agencies have suggested that it has numerous warheads. How do you see that as a concern for Jordan?

[Husayn] It is a concern for the whole region. I hope that some arrangements will be worked out with regard to weapons of mass destruction, that we see their removal from the entire region, and to ensure that they do not come to be a source of threat to any in this region.

[Reporter] Do you believe Israel has those weapons and you want Israel to come clean on...[changes thought] if so, to come clean on the numbers that it has?

[Husayn] I hope that this problem will be addressed, and this is one of the problems that is being addressed by the multilaterals, I believe.

[Reporter] Refugees is a major concern for you. You've spoken about it many times. One of the things I understand that you've raised recently is the issue of compensation. Can you explain to me what you mean, and do you have any idea how people should be compensated?

[Husayn] UN resolutions from the outset spoke of return or compensation for Palestinians in the diaspora. And I believe that many of them over the years have adopted other nationalities, but without prejudice to this right of return or compensation. So, there is an individual dimension to the problem, and equally, there is that of states that have carried a tremendous burden over the years, and amongst them, and probably in the forefront is Jordan. This is the only country where Palestinians and Jordanians have lived as members of one family since the late forties, early fifties, until now. And we have carried the baggage of history regarding every disaster that has beset, particularly, our Palestinian brethren or others in this region. We have tried to contribute toward stability in this area. So, in a context of peace I believe, sir, that we must try to see that the divides are removed also between the have's and have not's, and that the level of nations as well, there, hopefully, will be as a result of engaging the world community and the region in an attempt to address this particular dimension to bring a qualitative change to the lives of people in this region so that they can enjoy peace.

[Reporter] The potential for so much change so quickly, how is this right in the middle or on the eve of an election here in Jordan, how is that going to impact your plans for holding elections in November?

[Husayn] So far, our plans are to go ahead, but, at the same time, its giving us a lot of room for thought, because, already, several political bodies in this country have gotten in touch, expressing concern that maybe there should be a delay, which is possible within the Constitution, and to defer the elections to a time when some of these answers are available as to who might be eligible to return, and, therefore, who might have a different nationality if they chose this as a way or not. But, as far as I am concerned, up to this moment, we are heading for it, and I think that the answer for Jordan and for the future is more and more democracy, and more and more partaking in shaping the future of this country.

[Reporter] Well, is it not a concern that one of the issues that could suddenly evolve and could become the chief issue in that election, rather than domestic issues in Jordan, the whole election could be fought over whether this peace agreement is a good one or a bad one?

[Husayn] Yes we have, but I certainly hope, and I've spent a long time discussing this with a number of thinkers in this country, that we should ensure that this never happens and that Jordan remains together, supportive always of Palestine and the Palestinian people regarding their cause and their future.

[Reporter] Are your worried about violence within the occupied territories, Palestinian pitted against Palestinian? How the PLO is going to deal with factions like Hamas?

[Husayn] I hope this will never happen, Sir. I hope this will never happen.

[Reporter] A final question, personal if I may. How are you feeling?

[Husayn] A bit stressed out, and yet excited with so many possibilities and so many hopes, and, as far as I am concerned, the crowning achievement of my long years in serving my people as—I am proud of being one of them—is to see that finally the world accepts that the Palestinians are the people to deal with Palestinian matters regarding their Palestinian future; and to see us close to the possibility of fulfilling a dream, that of a comprehensive peace in this region between the children of Abraham. And I hope that we may live to see that soon.

[Reporter] Thank you Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you so much.

Prime Minister on Peace Process, Agenda With Israel

PM2109111593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman "after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda"]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now that the peace process has started in the region, what is Jordan's role and future political position?

[Al-Majali] We should first understand that the world order is beginning to be translated on the ground in the region. I admit that that implies grave danger if we Jordanians and Arabs do not play a fundamental part. That would depend on Arab solidarity, which should be at its peak to prevent plans being drawn up for us without our knowledge. Arab solidarity would enable us

to influence that world order in favor of the higher Arab interests. I believe the time has come for the restoration of Arab solidarity.

We must remember that the next phase, that is the peace phase, will be more serious even than the postwar periods. After wars, people are usually in a state of maximum despair and they accept whatever they are offered. But after peace, expectations are very high and difficult to fulfill unless there is correct planning.

Everyone knows that whatever risks face one Arab country also reflect on the other Arab parties, which means that when problems occur in the West Bank, for example, we here would be affected; and whenever there are problems in Jordan, we fear that our brother neighbors would be affected.

The region is interrelated because we are cohesive and fraternal peoples with the same higher interests. That is why it is necessary to restore Arab solidarity to guard against any danger, because the absence of such solidarity would expose the Arab world to many such dangers.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The ordinary Jordanian people are in a state of loss and doubt about their political future, particularly against a background of rumors about an alternative homeland and evictions. What is the truth about that?

[Al-Majali] Whoever reads the Jordanian agenda would see that the essence of the agenda is based on nonevictions [of Palestinians to Jordan], and that resolves the alternative homeland issue.

Israel has, for the first time in history, acknowledged that it has eastern borders, the British mandate borders. That is clear.

Israel has recognized the Palestinian leadership and the alternative homeland idea has been buried forever. That is what happened in practice and officially on the White House lawn. That is in addition, as I said previously, to the fact that the Madrid conference had in fact "coffined" the alternative homeland idea with the emergence of the Palestinian entity. That is why I see no room for Jordanian fear and doubt. Such fears and doubts are unjustified.

The fear, however, might be related to the presence of refugees and evacuees, but I wish here to draw attention to the Jordanian-Israeli written agenda. That clearly states that this problem must be solved in accordance with international law whether pertaining to the right to repatriation or compensation. Those living in Jordan who have been granted citizenship and do not wish to return will be compensated and will remain Jordanian citizens with the same rights and duties.

As regards the evacuees, UN Security Council Resolution 237 stipulates that they should be allowed to return. That is included and stated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The Palestinian camps in Jordan will remain until their fate is determined in the negotiations on the future of the refugees and the right to repatriation or compensation. Some will return. Those who do not return will be compensated and will become Jordanian citizens whether they are in camps or anywhere else.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is Jordan's position regarding the commitments it had before the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed, and what would its responsibilities be during the autonomy period?

[Al-Majali] From 1967 to 1988, Jordan fully honored its commitments in the occupied Arab territories. It continued to pay the expenses, salaries, and upkeep of all workers in the various sectors. When the disengagement decision was made in 1988 Jordan stopped its commitments in some but not all sectors. For instance, we continued to pay the salaries of all the judges and lawyers, as well as the awqaf [religious trusts] allocations.

When Israel announced its annexation of Jerusalem and in order to preserve the schools' syllabi, these schools were joined to the awqaf and we reached agreement on that with the PLO in order to preserve all the Arabic syllabi and prevent imposition of Israeli syllabi.

We will continue to honor these commitments until we see the results of the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy negotiations. Then we will hold talks with the Palestinian brothers on all new developments.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are your expectations as far as Jordan's role in the future economic process in the region?

[Al-Majali] The peace process has charted an international course in Madrid and Washington with multilateral meetings in various parts of the world. The multilateral meetings will discuss economic issues. There can be no peace in the region while incomes vary considerably. The per capita income in Israeli is $14,000 but the Jordanian and Palestinian per capita income is $1,200. We do not expect peace to prevail in the region while this situation exists.

That is why the peace process should be coupled with economic projects that would raise the people's standards. The multilateral talks will, therefore, cover multilateral projects in the region to benefit all peoples of the region.

Another point is that when peace prevails in the region, the expenditures of the military and arms sectors will decline and the economy will benefit.

Omani Foreign Minister Bin-'Alawi Pays Visit

Reaffirms Support for Agenda

JN2009174093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi has affirmed his country's support to the

Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement, and its political and economic support to steps taken by Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency upon arrival in Amman, the Omani minister said the PLO-Israeli peace has won unanimous support of Arab states. He described the plan as the right step and said it needs all Arab support to achieve Arab-Palestinian interest. He said his visit to Jordan comes within the framework of consultation and current contact which aims at deepening distinguished relations between Jordan and Oman. He asserted that the current circumstances in the Arab world require concerted contacts and consultations among Arab countries.

Mr. 'Alawi's visit is part of an Arab tour that included Qatar, Lebanon, and Syria. He also took part in the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting in Cairo.

Minister of State Receives Bin-'Alawi

JN2109071793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Foreign Ministry today.

During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the distinguished brotherly relations between the two fraternal peoples—relations that are cared for and watched over by His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. They also reviewed developments in the peace process on both the bilateral and multilateral levels. The two sides discussed and exchanged views on recent developments, especially the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the announcement of a Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

Al-Hasan stressed Jordan's firm commitment to the peace process in accordance with the constants on which it is based in order to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace. He also expressed Jordan's support for independent Palestinian decisionmaking. For his part, the Omani minister valued and appreciated Jordan's role in the peace process through His Majesty King Husayn's wisdom and insight. Al-Hasan presented a briefing on the democratic march in Jordan and reviewed economic difficulties facing the country.

The two sides discussed, in detail, bilateral relations and means to reinforce and develop them in all fields.

King, Prime Minister Receive Minister

JN2109172193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Omani minister relayed to his majesty the king the greetings of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. During the meeting, they affirmed the desire to promote the special bilateral ties and stressed the two countries' role in rebuilding Arab solidarity. They also discussed current Arab issues in light of recent developments, particularly those regarding the peace process.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

For Oman, the meeting was attended by Omani Ambassador to Jordan Muhammad Bin-Sultan al-Busa'idi, Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, ambassador at the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and adviser Badr Bin-Hamad Bin-Humud.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali had received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation at his office in the afternoon. During the meeting, they reviewed the special bilateral ties, which are being fostered by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus. They discussed recent Arab and international developments, particularly regarding the peace process. They also reviewed issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

Bin-'Alawi Makes Statement, Departs

JN2109185493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] During the reception His Majesty King Husayn accorded to Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court today, the strong Jordanian-Omani ties figured highly in their talks. The Omani minister relayed to his majesty the king the greetings of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. During the talks, they affirmed the desire to promote the special bilateral ties and stressed the two countries' role in rebuilding Arab solidarity. They also discussed current Arab issues in light of recent developments, particularly those regarding the peace process.

Bin-'Alawi has also held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the Prime Ministry.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah] During their meeting, the prime minister and the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs discussed the strong fraternal ties between Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman. They conducted a thorough assessment of recent regional developments. The meeting was attended by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

[Bin-'Alawi] I would like to say that the perspective and vision of his majesty the king have always been sound. God willing, we hope that his majesty the king's efforts to

promote the interests of this fraternal dear country and those of the Arab and Islamic nation at large will be crowned with success. I have just listened to a detailed explanation on Jordan's position on the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations. I have been briefed on how much the Jordanian position is affected by other tracks, particularly the Palestinian track. I would like to say that all aspects of the Jordanian perspective will offer genuine service to the Palestinian track. Jordan's ideas and aspirations regarding the future are good. As I have heard from his majesty the king, and the prime minister, Jordan is interested, first and foremost, in ensuring that all Palestinians, all Jordanians, and all Arabs obtain their rights.

[Al-Tarawinah] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman this afternoon after a two-day visit to Jordan. He was seen off at Amman Airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Omani ambassador in Amman. [end recording]

Sudanese Minister Meets With Officials, Departs

JN2009175293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn. Interior Minister Salamah Hammad also received the Sudanese minister.

The guest minister's talks dealt with the situation in the Arab region and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Interior Minister Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn left Amman today.

Paper Lauds King Husayn's Meeting With Media

JN1909171893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Sep 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Unity of the Palestinian Rank in King Husayn's Mind and Conscience"]

[Text] During his meeting with the media, his majesty the king spread a warm, sound, and healthy climate over the dialogue. This reflected the concerns and issues of the homeland and the nation, the foremost of which is the Palestinian issue, which King Husayn has always described as the Arab nation's central issue.

His Majesty King Husayn answered all the questions concerning the media, our people, and our nation. King Husayn shed light on a number of historic facts and current realities that deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, and the peace process. This meeting, which was enriched by His Majesty King Husayn's vision, political wisdom, and pioneering experience, was marked by a concern for the unity of the Palestinian rank despite the differences in opinion on the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Moreover, the meeting was marked by his majesty's concern for supporting the Palestinian brethren and enabling them to unify their ranks and stand together, hand in hand, despite the different interpretations of what they have achieved so far on the road to restoring their legitimate national rights.

Proceeding from his concern for supporting the Palestinian brethren and their leadership—the PLO—His Majesty King Husayn called on all Arab countries to support the Palestinian stand away from all kinds of Arab interference in the Palestinian brethren's affairs. He emphasized the need to keep the Palestinian issue the focus of all the Arabs' concern and support, just like the Arabs' previous support for the Algerian people and issue.

His Majesty King Husayn also called on all the Arabs to respect the Palestinian option and the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. He emphasized the need to hold an Arab summit to exchange views on what is going on in terms of the proposed solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Regarding Jordan, His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed the need to maintain national unity without allowing any attempts to undermine it. He called for calm, objective, and constructive dialogue away from one-upmanship and forms of provocation in order to maintain the domestic front and reinforce its cohesion under all circumstances.

As for the Jordanian people's fear about what is happening around them, King Husayn reassured his people, stressing Jordan's alertness toward what is happening now and in the future and his willingness to make the right decisions and take the appropriate measures in confronting all that could harm Jordan's stability, security, sovereignty, and higher interests. King Husayn's meeting with the media was fruitful thanks to his inspired leadership, awareness, wisdom, and knowledge of regional and world affairs as well as developments in the Arab and international arenas.

State Employees' Right To Write in Press Defended

JN2009110693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] Seven Jordanian parties issued a statement yesterday concerning the prime minister's decision banning state employees from writing in the daily press.

The statement says that preventing state employees from writing in the daily press is a violation of democratic freedoms, including freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, affirmed in the Parties Law, and stipulated in the National Charter.

The statement adds that the Civil Service System cannot legally override the Constitution and public freedoms laws. This system should, therefore, be reconsidered to harmonize with the democratic stage and the laws and systems issued to promote the democratic process.

The real reason for this decision is that some writers have been critical of the government's practices and presented political or economic views that conflict with the government's policies. The law which gives the citizen the right to engage in political party action also gives the citizen the right to free expression. Certainly, an employee who occupies a leading position in a party or speaks for this party will be required to express the party's views. Such a decision was not implemented even during the martial law era. Political parties, therefore, demand that the government revoke this decision.

The statement was signed by the following parties: the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party; the Jordanian People's Democratic Party; the Jordanian Communist Party; the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party; the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party; the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party.

SANA Reports on al-Asad Interview in Cairo Paper

JN2209093793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted that Syria is committed to the peace process and eager to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, noting that Syria is willing to cooperate toward this end.

In an interview with the Cairo-based AL-AKHBAR newspaper, President al-Asad said Syria seeks a peace that gives each party its rights and security and assurance to everybody. However, if it is a peace like that sought by Israel, having land and peace together, then this will not be accepted by Syria under any circumstances.

President al-Asad noted that Syria was the party that paved the way for peace by accepting the U.S. initiative, which adopted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

President al-Asad added: I have said before, and I repeat now, that peace opportunities are now better than before, thanks to the prevailing international atmosphere and the fact that more and more people want peace now, even inside Israel itself.

President al-Asad went on: Everybody knows that without the Syrian acceptance of Madrid and the U.S. initiative, the Washington negotiations would not have taken place. It is also common knowledge that Syria plays a major role in the peace process. If Rabin thinks that Syria's adherence to its rights obstructs peace, then everybody knows that Syria will not relinquish its national soil and that Israel is to blame for the lack of progress and the stalemate in the peace talks and their revolving in a vicious circle.

President al-Asad added: The Israelis now know for sure that there is no hope that Syria will relinquish one inch of land. The United States was also certain about that, even before the Madrid conference. They know that peace is not a matter of selling or buying, and will never be at the expense of land. They also know that we accepted the U.S. peace initiative because it is in line with UN resolutions.

On the possibility of reaching a solution this year, the president said: If Israel accepts Security Council resolutions, then this is possible. However, what we see at the present moment does not indicate this is possible.

President Hafiz al-Asad denied reaching any agreement on, or discussing, the deployment of U.S. forces on the Golan to encourage Israel to withdraw. He said: We have heard statements about this, and perhaps this was raised within the context of talks. But this subject was not discussed. Perhaps, as I said, it was raised during preliminary talks at some time, but we have not agreed on any point regarding this subject.

The president added: We spoke about equitable security measures on both sides. This matter is almost one of the clauses agreed upon in Washington as part of the Syrian paper. We said we agree to the presence of international forces on the borders, but we did not talk about the nationality of these forces. We talked about principles. In any case, we will discuss everything at the right time. Naturally, when we get to that stage, both sides will adhere to certain forces that constitute a guarantee. Any side may not agree to the forces belonging to the other side. In this case, we will seek solutions acceptable to both sides.

The president stressed that the Palestine question is the basic issue and that the Israeli aggression was not confined to Palestine; it included other Arab states, but Palestine was the beginning.

The president said: Naturally we were aware of the developments of this question. When I was 16 years old, I volunteered to fight in Palestine.

The president described the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the secret Palestinian-Israeli talks as a painful surprise, indicating that 'Arafat had not informed Syria of his secret contacts despite the many rumors that 'Arafat and some of his aides were holding secret contacts with Israel. However, he said, rumors are many; some of them are true and some half true. The president said: There was no justification for these secret talks. In my opinion, they lost. The Arabs, too, have lost and only Israel won because it is impossible for an individual to be stronger than the group.

The president said Israel only gives little to the party that deviates. What it gives today, if there is anything to be given, will be taken back by it in the future. What happened was regrettable. None expected it. The president pointed out that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement does not pose any threat. It cannot pose any danger to us. Had we wanted to obstruct it, we would have foiled it. If it becomes clear to us that its harm is great, we will do so. He added: You read the agreement, and I read it. I do not know what they agreed on since every point in the agreement requires agreement. What happened was a step on a long path. Therefore, we said it is up to the Palestinian people to accept what they deem suitable.

The president added: In fact, we were absolutely clear. We did not bless, support, oppose, or accept [the agreement]. I advised the brothers, and 'Arafat thanked me for the advice. I simply told him: Unify the people, unify the citizens so that there would be no massacres. I also told him we will not obstruct. He, therefore, said thank you three times.

The president indicated that receiving 'Arafat in Damascus was undesirable because neutrality on this subject is also unacceptable.

The president said Israel signed the agreement because it was not comfortable in Gaza. It is in Israel's interest to see the Arabs share the consequences of its difficulties in

Gaza. The agreement has achieved this goal and kept everything in its hand while giving away nothing. 'Arafat has to accept anything because he put himself in a big prison.

The president emphasized the depth of Syrian-Palestinian relations, and said that the majority of Palestinians is against attempts to tarnish Syria because it knows the extent of Syria's sacrifices for the Palestinian cause.

He said: Perhaps Yasir 'Arafat does not deny that Syria had intervened more than once to protect him from the determination of some of his aides to assassinate him. We intervened three times to rescue 'Arafat from murder by his closest aides and from a coup which the Palestine Liberation Army was preparing.

The president said that Syria will not, in response to Rabin's request, prevent the Palestinians from opposing Israel's policy. He said: First, when these extremist Palestinians stood against us he did not stop them. So how can we stop them if they stand against Israel's policy concerning a subject that deals with the core of their cause. Second, Rabin was unable to prevent the Likud from opposing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, so how can he ask us—of course we will not accept his demand—to silence those Palestinians who oppose the agreement. To us, these Palestinians are like the Likud to Rabin.

The president said: Jerusalem is a special case, and the Arabs should do something about it, and a solution should be reached for Jerusalem so that it will not remain a permanent problem.

The president emphasized the need to realize Arab solidarity based on the common Arab destiny, and said: The active Egyptian-Syrian efforts on the peace process are based on the need for Arab solidarity so that peace will be real and just based on the principles of the UN Charter and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

He emphasized: The time is now right for Arab reconciliation, for which there is no alternative. Sincere intentions are needed.

The president added: Syria and Egypt can chart a strategy, plans, and programs on facing anything that threatens the pan-Arab security, and can lay the bricks of the solidarity strategy. I believe that no matter how long it takes, Arab solidarity will be realized.

President al-Asad hoped there will be more coordination and cooperation in the coming days in the interest of Syria and Egypt and the entire Arab nation, because solidarity between Syria and Egypt always invigorates and enhances Arab action.

The president condemned all acts of terrorism in Egypt, noting that weakening Egypt has been an old-new colonialist objective.

The president paid tribute to the Syrian-Egyptian unity achieved in 1958, which was a dream, adding: The feeling of belonging to the state that was called the United Arab Kingdom created in us a unique feeling of pride. We had a firm conviction that pan-Arab security would not be complete without its two wings, Syria and Egypt; that they have been one homeland since time immemorial; and that each time Syria and Egypt were apart, many disasters would befall the Arabs.

Addressing the dispute with the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, President al-Asad said: The reason for the dispute was that he departed from the plan we had drawn up together for waging the war and the fact that he made unilateral decisions that caused great harm.

He added: In my view, the end of the battles was not harmonious with the beginning and the road we took. I think that the objective is not separable from the road. The road that al-Sadat took did not befit the pride of the October war. This is why we differed.

The president asserted that Syria accepted peace efforts because it belongs to a country which carried a humanitarian message to the entire world, a message of love, peace, and cooperation, rejecting aggression and occupation of the land of others.

The president said: We always offer a just peace to achieve justice and a comprehensive peace that brings about full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and gives the Palestinian Arab people their rights.

The president went on: Our conditions and demands are the same. They have not changed. They will never change today, tomorrow, or forever. The whole world is now aware of the way we view peace. Peace is not a matter of selling or buying, and will never be at the expense of the land. Anything that falls short of this is surrender, and no power on earth can impose surrender on us. Syria will not relinquish one inch of the Golan. Therefore, a compromise on the question of territory is out of the question. Israel also knows that geography does not achieve security and that separate agreements do not achieve peace.

The president stressed that the U.S. Administration and Israel know that there is no possibility of a compromise on the question of territory. In Syria, no one would relinquish one inch of the land. If anyone did, he would be considered a traitor.

The president added that during their telephone conversation, President Clinton stressed to him U.S. commitment to achieving progress on all tracks.

Al-Zu'bi Briefs Cabinet on Arab League Meeting

JN2109143693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister briefed the Council of Ministers on current political developments in the Arab and international arenas, and the repercussions of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the overall peace process and the development of events in the region. The foreign minister reviewed in detail the Arab foreign ministers' deliberations and discussions at the Arab League Council's Cairo meeting. He clarified that the Arab foreign ministers' deliberations reflected many reservations and a great deal of skepticism about the future of this agreement. The foreign minister expressed Syria's appreciation for the Arab Council's reiteration of support for Syrian and Lebanese efforts to regain all of the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon in accordance with the bases of the peace process, a necessary condition for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Radio Advises Against Rewarding Israel for 'Nothing'

JN2109165493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Gaza-Jericho accord, hailed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in remarks to the Knesset today as a victory for Zionism, has won the Palestinians nothing. And yet, in return for nothing, Israel wants to exact a price from Arabs and the international community. Israel, it seems, thinks the accord has opened wide the field for it to realize, free of charge, more than a few of its dreams in the Arab and world arenas. It must be said that some gestures by certain Arabs may have encouraged Israel to make more and more demands in pursuit of its objectives and ambitions.

Israel has typically sought to reap dividends in advance. Now, in exchange for a deal that still hangs in the balance, it is offering the Arab side nothing. With the launching of the process and the Washington talks, Israel sought and obtained—courtesy of its friends in the U.S. capital—the abrogation of the Zionism-equal-to-racism UN resolution, arguing that it was incongruous with the new climate of peace. It was the first bill Israel called on the international community to settle as an inducement for it to press ahead with peace.

Given Israel's footdragging when it comes to peace, it is in constant need of a spur to nudge it forward. And with the Gaza-Jericho accord now in place, it wants the international community to abrogate or amend numerous resolutions in order to bring them into line with the new post-accord era. Perhaps none of the Arabs will fail to see the significance of such a demand which, if it was met, would undermine Arab rights grounded in international legitimacy and UN resolutions. The world body is now being asked to come up with a down payment even before Israel does anything palpable to justify the amendment or abrogation of resolutions prompted by its belligerent and expansionist drive to grab Arab territory and violate Arab rights.

Not that this is the whole price that Israel is asking from the international community and Arab states. Israel wants more: normal diplomatic ties, a termination of the Arab boycott of Israel, a curb on whatever may disturb its occupation of Arab territory, and even quick movement to delete any reference to Israel in Arab school history textbooks as an occupier and aggressor against the Arabs. Even worse than these exasperating demands would be for them to be accommodated by any Arabs.

The Arab states and the international community must watch every step they take. Any false step would hurt Arab interests and entice Israel not to forswear its belligerent, expansionist bent, the occupied Arab territory, and the repression and terror it practices there. Any such move would sow the seeds of evil that will generate future wars and devastation rather than the peace sought by the international community. Israeli officials have been stating unambiguously that Israel needs a break from the peace process to absorb the Gaza-Jericho accord. What's the rush, then, in handing to it the rewards of peace before it pays anything in return?

We would like to ask the following questions: Has the occupied Arab territory been vacated? Has Israel abandoned its expansionist dreams and designs on Arab land? Have Arab and Palestinian rights been redressed to the satisfaction of international law? If the answer to all these questions is no, is there any ground for meeting Israel's unrealistic and illogical demands? We would like to hear the answer to this question from the Arab states and international community.

Iran

'Serious Opposition' to PLO-Israeli Accord Urged

LD2109122993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has severely criticized the PLO-Israeli accord. He said that the Arabs have been the losers and that the accord made civil war among Palestinians inevitable.

Although Syria has not adopted a supportive stance toward the accord from the start and has not prevented Palestinian refugees and opposition groups based in Syria from expressing their opposition to the accord, nonetheless, it has not adopted a seriously negative stance toward the accord either. This is because Syria has been involved in the so-called peace talks in Washington as a negotiating party, and it cannot express serious fundamental opposition to the trend and aim of the negotiations, which is the attainment of compromise with the Zionist regime.

In other words, Syria both wishes not to be seen on the international level as a troublemaker in the path of compromise over the Palestinian problem and to try to preserve its traditional prestige as a progressive country engaged in fighting the Zionist regime by withholding unconditional support for the PLO-Israeli accord. The initial consequences of the compromise and its negative effects on the countries of the region—particularly those directly involved in the problem—have, however, brought about the necessity for serious opposition to the compromise at an extensive and governmental level, as well as at the level of the people and of Islamic and national organizations.

Recent developments in relations between Israel and Arab countries show that the enemies of Islam have embarked on an extensive diplomatic assault under the guise of the deceptive accord between the PLO and Israel. Although the developments seem on the surface to consist of a bilateral compromise between the PLO and Israel, they are, in fact, aimed at a new political formation in the region.

The consecutive collapse of the previously closed borders of Arab countries in the face of Israel's diplomatic forces since the signing of the accord is the clearest indication of the new Israeli political onslaught, which has made the entire region the target of its political-economic occupation and of its maneuvers and actions.

The Arab League's stance, expressed in the closing communique issued at the end of the two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab countries held in Cairo, was undoubtedly directly linked to the simultaneous visit to Egypt of Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, and 'Arafat's presence in that country.

The Arab League's support for the PLO-Israeli accord has officially opened the gates of the Arab world to Israel and has paved the way for the establishment of official relations by Arab regimes that have had longstanding secret ties with the Zionist regime and by governments that have been waiting impatiently for the chance to establish relations with the regime occupying Quds.

Some Arab governments are of the opinion that the end of the Middle East crisis will weaken Islamism in the region and will strengthen their weak positions in the face of the wave of Islamism and will consolidate their regimes.

The PLO-Israeli accord has not solved two of the major aspects of the Palestinian crisis; that is, the problem of the Palestinian refugees, who number over 4 million, and the problem of the fate of the occupied territory, leaving it in an ambiguous position. But, on the other side, it has given Israel the possibility of penetrating the Arab world and gaining control over it. This situation has, in effect, strengthened the power equation even further to the advantage of the Zionist regime and has, in particular, placed a great deal of pressure on the other parties to the negotiations, which have so far not reached agreement with Israel, making them anxious about the future.

At any rate, in the opinion of political analysts, these developments have done more than pave the way for the implementation of the recent accord. In practice, they have given shape to the opposition, extending it from the popular and group level to the official and governmental level.

'Mistake' Seen in Arab Support for Gaza-Jericho

NC2109204193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] As the course of events in the Middle East unfolds and the Arab countries fall one after the other into the trap of reconciliation with the Zionist entity, unable to confront the Israeli diplomatic onslaught, signs of important formal opposition have emerged. The official visit by an Israeli delegation to Tunis to prepare for a new round of multilateral talks between the Arab countries and Israel, although meant to show that the Arab borders that were closed to the Zionist entity have collapsed, failed to drive the Arabs to provide full and clear support for the PLO in its Gaza-Jericho plan.

It appears that the opposition to this agreement is gradually taking shape, strongly hindering the implementation of the bargain between the PLO and the Zionist entity. The opposition by Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Libya to a PLO request to hold an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo to support the PLO-Israeli agreement means that the limited popular opposition has grown to a formal opposition by the Arab countries.

Notwithstanding this formal opposition, the Arab foreign ministers, after a two-day meeting in Cairo,

announced support for the recent PLO-Israeli agreement. Observers believe that the foreign ministers made a strategic political mistake. The main factor in the Palestinian crisis is the presence of millions of Palestinians in the diaspora and the occupation of the Palestinian homeland. These two important factors never feature in the Gaza- Jericho plan. The plan rejects the repatriation of the displaced Palestinians and does not mention the occupied territories. The Arab League support for this plan, which ignores the most important factors of the Palestinian problem, will have only one result: Opening the doors of the Arab world, yet wider, to the Zionist onslaught.

Envoy to Tajikistan Interviewed on Relations

NC2109104893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Sep 93 p 12

[Report on interview with 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari, ambassador to Tajikistan, by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent in Dushanbe; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Speaking on the role of Afghanistan in the Tajikistan border disputes, Iran's Ambassador of to Tajikistan Mojtahed-Shabestari stated: In our opinion, Afghanistan is in favor of establishing peace in Tajikistan but it is not pursuing any specific interests. In the opinion of Afghan politicians, continued unrest on its borders with Tajikistan will have a negative effect on Afghanistan's internal situation. Military moves, migration, and traffic to and from Afghanistan will create problems for the newly created government there.

Rejecting allegations of Kabul's interference in Tajikistan's internal affairs, he said that he believed that the newly established government in Afghanistan is facing numerous problems following the victory of the revolution and it is grappling with them accordingly.

He said that Russia has taken some positive steps recently with regard to events in Tajikistan and some of the Russian foreign policymakers have asked the government to hold talks with the opposition and to motivate them toward peace. [passage omitted]

Mojtahed-Shabestari then referred to the recent Central Asian summit session with Boris Yeltsin as a positive step in defusing internal tensions in Tajikistan and stressed that in this session, the issue of Tajikistan was the main subject of discussion and the Central Asian leaders conveyed their stance to Emomali Rakhmonov on negotiations with the opposition. The Tajikistan foreign minister announced for the first time that the government was ready to talk to the opposition groups.

The ambassador described our country's stance on the Tajikistan crisis as clear, overt, and principled, adding: At the outset of the crisis in Tajikistan, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani conveyed his concern to former President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

From our vantage point, peace in the Central Asian republics will have a positive effect on the entire region. This is Tehran's stance with regard to conflicts in all the Central Asian republics, including Azerbaijan. Iran calls on all the warring factions in the recent crisis to strive for an independent and economically prosperous Tajikistan.

This stance has been conveyed to the present Dushanbe government on many occasions through the proper channels to Rakhmonov as well. We are cooperating with all national and international organizations to attain this objective.

Continuing this discussion, we asked the ambassador questions pertaining to the embassy's cultural and political activities. In answer, he said: We cooperate with all the Tajik groups in Dushanbe who are interested in art and culture. Visitors to our embassy include university professors, artists, writers, the intelligentsia, and ordinary citizens. We strive to cooperate with any group interested in Iran.

Despite the unrest in Tajikistan and the concomitant problems, 70 different delegations from Tehran visited Tajikistan and 1,200 members of cultural, athletic, and academic groups from Tajikistan visited Iran. There are many Tajiks who are enamored with Iran and fervently wish to visit its cities.

The atmosphere is conducive to cooperation with Iran and all letters to our embassy are duly answered in Persian script. With regard to cultural activities, Iran has set up three schools in Dushanbe and is cooperating with more in Khodzhand in introducing instruction in the Farsi script beginning 1 September.

We have rented a 300-person auditorium on behalf of the embassy and soon we will be showing Iranian films in Dushanbe. He mentioned that 7,000 books had been presented to Tajik scholars and four joint scientific-cultural publications had been initiated and a language center for research in the Farsi language and literature is being set up. These are among the various effective steps that have been taken to forge closeness between the two countries and will be completed in the near future.

The ambassador added: Along with the publication of 20,000 copies of Imam Khomeyni's book "Badeh-ye Eshq va Mehram-e Raaz" [The Wine Goblet and the Confidante], the publication of the translation of the holy Koran in Persian, and 200 copies of an instruction manual for teaching Persian are among the other plans nearing completion.

Regarding the embassy's long-term programs, Mojtahed-Shabestari stated: We have purchased one hectare of land in a section of the capital of Tajikistan to construct a well-equipped cultural center. However, until it is ready, temporary premises have been rented to accommodate a library that will house 20,000 titles for interested readers in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] in celebration of Culture Week.

In conclusion, he criticized the country's economic sector's utter lassitude in entering the Tajikistan market, adding: Other countries are very active in this regard and we should compensate for our inertia in the future.

Support for Rushdie Said To Stall UK-Tehran Ties

LD2109134193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1151 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr. Michael Burton, director general of the British Foreign Office [title as heard] who had traveled to Tehran to hold talks for improving Iran-Britain relations, returned to London Monday [20 September] at the end of his three-day trip. Earlier reports quoting political circles have said that Mr. Burton's visit to Tehran was aimed at holding talks on the deliberations which are expected to be held between the Iranian foreign minister and the British foreign secretary during the UN General Assembly session late this month.

Since Mr. Michael Burton had traveled to Tehran in his capacity as a key official of the British Foreign Office, his trip was termed important by political circles. The trip was also considered as a sign of the British Government's desire to promote ties with Iran and to remove the current obstacles on the way of expansion of bilateral relations.

In the course of his stay in Tehran, Mr. Burton held lengthy talks with the Iranian officials including Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian Foreign Ministry deputy in charge of American and West European affairs. In general, the results of these meetings have been assessed as positive by the two countries' officials. However, since resumption of ties between Iran and Britain in 1990, ties between them have undergone a series of fluctuations, and, despite the fact that economic relations between them have been relatively good, diplomatic ties have stayed at a low level. Hence, the subject of improving their diplomatic relations was more seriously examined in the talks held by the Iranian and British officials in recent days.

Diplomatic ties between Iran and Britain at present stand at the level of charge d'affaires, and this can undergo a change in view of the inclination expressed by both sides on enhancement of bilateral relations. But, alongside the current diplomatic efforts, it seems that a more realistic approach by the British officials towards certain issues can, to a certain extent, pave the way for a speedy expansion of these ties.

In this regard, the Salman Rushdie issue and his blatant insult to the world Muslim sanctities are among the major subjects which, on account of lack of proper discernment on the part of certain political circles and Western propaganda mouthpieces, and also due to London's open support for him, have so far prevented any improvement in these relations.

As also stressed by Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati earlier, Iran is willing to improve its ties with Britain on the basis of respect for reciprocal rights. In this same connection, current avenues in the two countries' ties confirm the point that besides the issue of Salman Rushdie—in whose case the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa is a completely ideological and irreversible matter—at present there does not exist any serious obstacle to the improvement of relations between the two countries.

It is expected that explicit and positive talks of Mr. Michael Burton with the Iranian officials in Tehran will be instrumental in removing certain doubts and ambiguities in current assessments with regard to the Tehran-London ties, thus paving the way for expansion of relations between the two states in the near future.

Possibility of 'Sidestepping' Rushdie Discussed

NC2209084293 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22 (AFP)—Iran and Britain have discussed sidestepping the issue of British writer Salman Rushdie to emphasize areas in which they can reach agreement, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi said in remarks published Wednesday.

"We discussed having bilateral cooperation on the issues where we have no difference of opinion and leaving aside the matters we disagree on," Va'ezi said of his talks here with Foreign Office official Michael Burton.

"We can continue this policy as long as the hostile atmosphere in relations between the two countries remains," the Iranian deputy foreign minister told the English-language Tehran Times.

Burton, an assistant undersecretary in the Foreign Office, left here Monday after a three-day visit, the first to Iran by a high- ranking British official since September 1990.

Va'ezi reaffirmed the death sentence imposed by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni against Rushdie for his novel "The Satanic Verses," considered by many Muslims to be blasphemous.

"The Britons should by now realise that Imam Khomeyni performed his religious duty and that the fatwa (death sentence) cannot be withdrawn or changed," he said.

Va'ezi said Burton's visit to Iran had created an opportunity for Tehran and London to improve relations but the two countries had not discussed resuming full diplomatic ties.

Britain is currently represented here by a charge d'affaires.

Austria's Mock, Deputy Speaker Discuss Ties

NC2209060993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] In the first round of talks between parliamentary officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria, the further expansion of bilateral relations in various fields was emphasized. In this round of talks, the Austrian deputy speaker, who met with Majles Deputy Speaker Hasan Ruhani in Vienna, described Iran's role in the region as important and stressed the need for the continuation of relations and contacts between the two countries' parliaments.

Ruhani referred to the good relations between Tehran and Vienna and underlined the need for exchanges of views and talks between the two countries' parliaments in the international scenes as well as for contacts among the various commissions of the two parliaments. Pointing to the good relations between the two countries, Ruhani welcomed Austria's cooperation in the implementation of the second five-year plan.

Commenting on the Middle East situation, the Majles deputy speaker said: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports a just and respectable peace in the region—a peace that will ensure the full rights of the Palestinian nation. Describing the Islamic Republic's principled and stable policy vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and the signing of the recent compromise accord in Washington, he said: Those who are holding talks as representatives of Palestine are not the true representatives of the majority of Palestinians and the decision should be made only by the Palestinian nation.

Majles Deputy Speaker Ruhani also met with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock and discussed bilateral relations and important regional and international issues. During this meeting, Ruhani stressed the importance of economic relations, joint investments, and expanding the range of commercial-industrial relations, saying that these constitute important elements in expanding the two countries' relations.

Referring to the massacre of the innocent people in Bosnia- Herzegovina by the Serbs, Ruhani said: What has happened in Bosnia- Herzegovina is a painful tragedy. The Austrian foreign minister also said that the Islamic Republic's major and important role in the region is very clear and that Tehran's initiatives are laudable. He added that Iranian-Austrian relations enjoy a high and good growth rate.

Expressing his concern over the crimes being perpetrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mock pointed out that winter is approaching and that aid should be rushed to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In conclusion he called for the further expansion of the two countries' relations in all fields.

Besharati, Cuban Envoy Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD2109191893 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Cuban ambassador to the Islamic Republic, Enrique Trujillo Rapallo, today expressed his satisfaction over the favorable trend of Iran's political relations with his country and called for expansion of bilateral economic relations.

Trujillo, who made the remark in a meeting with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, said that his country enjoyed very good relations with the non-aligned countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. "We hold Iran in high esteem because of the independent path it has adopted," he said.

Besharati, in return said that the reactionary Arab states either confirmed or kept silence on the PLO-Israeli compromise which was a treason to the Palestinian nation and a clear indication of their "dependence on global arrogance." He proposed that Iran and Cuba should reflect on the new world situation and establish their relations based on the new reality.

Besharati said that Iran has no special difficulties in its political relations with Cuba and is for expansion of economic ties with the Latin American country.

"The Islamic Republic intends to persevere in its efforts to guard Islamic values and principles, for we are not only responsible for the present but also for the future generations," concluded Besharati.

India's Rao Continues Visit; Holds Talks With Velayati

BK2109162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, held discussions with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in Tehran this evening. The discussions centered on bilateral issues, the United Nations, Central Asia, and Afghanistan. They also deliberated on the need to give the necessary strength and cooperation to the newly formed republics of Central Asia for their development.

Earlier in the day the prime minister visited (Ramsar), a picturesque resort on the Caspian Sea. The governor of (Ramsar) received the prime minister and hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary.

The prime minister is meeting Indologists and intellectuals in the Iranian capital later today. He will also address the Indian community in Tehran.

Bilateral Ties Discussed

LD2109215293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Bilateral relations between Iran and India, as well as recent regional and international political developments were the topics discussed at today's meeting between Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the visiting Indian prime Minister, Narasimha Rao.

Mr. Velayati provided an analysis of the political situation in the region, and then described the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve the region's crises, in particular the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the crisis in Tajikistan, and Afghanistan's problems. He said: Efforts aimed at resolving the regional problems will continue as lasting and permanent policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the situation in the Persian Gulf, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy in this sensitive area is to establish lasting stability and tranquillity, and we are keen to have cordial relations with the countries of the region.

Making reference to the Palestine issue, the foreign affairs minister of our country said: Without doubt the signing of the recent accord is not the end of the Palestine issue. This problem will remain until the nation of Palestine achieves its full rights. Mr. Rao, in turn, said: India is interested in expanding its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a very important country in the region. He added: In addition to cooperations in political, economic, and cultural fields, the two countries can enjoy fruitful cooperation in international affairs.

Referring to Indo-Pakistan relations, Mr. Rao said: We are two neighboring countries, and we are interested in adjusting our bilateral relations on the basis of negotiations and understanding.

On the issue of the need to help developing countries to expand their cooperation with each other, Mr. Rao said: We must make endeavors so that these countries grasp their collective interests, and take steps toward expanding cooperation in various fields.

Rao Addresses Majles

BK2209103993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister said that a stable and close relationship between India and Iran will contribute to stability, security, and progress in the region. Addressing the Iranian parliament—Majles—today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the two countries share the determination of achieving social progress and political stability on the basis of the will of their people. Pointing out the imbalanced relations between nations, Mr. Rao said that there is a need to restructure the world order on the basis of equality of states with non-interference in each other's affairs. The prime minister told the Iranian parliament that countries should act together to meet this objective. He said global interdependence not only demands national independence and self-respect, but also international trust, understanding, and cooperation. Mr. Rao said India has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world and they will continue to be a vital, influential, and dynamic factor affecting all social, political, and the economic processes in India.

Earlier, Mr. Rao called on the spiritual leader Ayatollah Khamene'i. Our correspondent Ramachandra Panigrahi reports from Tehran that the spiritual leader rarely gives audience to any visiting leader. Both the leaders were together for 10 minutes. The prime minister also called on the Iranian president, Mr. Rafsanjani, and held another round of talks. Several cabinet ministers called on Mr. Rao and discussed bilateral matters.

Before leaving for Delhi this afternoon, the prime minister is scheduled to address the Iranian Chamber of Commerce. Some more cabinet ministers of Iran are to call on Mr. Rao.

Interior Minister To Command Security Forces

LD2109160793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] In reply to a letter from the interior minister, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, consented to the Interior Ministry taking charge of the law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The text of the letter by Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati is as follows:

Your eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your shadow extend. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you. With respect, in view of the crucial responsibility of the Interior Ministry in establishing and maintaining public security, and with regard to the close ties which according to the law exist between the Interior Ministry and the law enforcement forces for the purpose of safeguarding sovereignty and creating order and public security, and finally on the basis of your eminence's guidelines in connection with the Interior Ministry's serious need to possesses the authority to command the law enforcement forces for the purpose of safeguarding public security, I hereby request that if you see it as expedient, you will, for the sake of the better fulfillment of legal duties, delegate the authority that the esteemed commander in chief enjoys in relation to the law enforcement forces to the interior minister, who would assume the title of acting commander in chief in charge of law enforcement forces.

These authorities of course do not include certain areas which have been clarified by the law; these areas which are exclusively within the bounds of your eminence's authorities include: Appointment and dismissal of the commander of the law enforcement forces, the head of

the law enforcement forces' political- ideological department, and the commander of the law enforcement forces' intelligence protection department.

It is of course clear that the law enforcement forces will act within the framework of the guidelines provided by your eminence while remaining obedient to the esteemed commander in chief of the armed forces. It is also clear that this step has to take effect after appropriate organizational conditions are created within the Interior Ministry.

May God extend your blessed shadow over the heads of all world Muslims, particularly the Hezbollah ummah.

[Signed] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, interior minister

The reply by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the armed forces, is as follows:

In the name of God. Your excellency, Mr. Besharati, esteemed interior minister, may your shadow extend.

I agree with the proposal that your excellency, as the interior minister, take over command of the Islamic Republic of Iran's law enforcement forces. I hope you will always be graced with God's favors. Details regarding your authority are set down in the letter from the leader's office to your excellency. God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 29 September 1993

Nepal

Leftist General Strike Ends With 300 Arrests

BK2109135493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 21 (AFP)—A general strike in Nepal called by four leftist factions ended Tuesday [21 September] with more than 300 arrests.

The strike affected educational institutions, factories and transport services around the country.

The four striking parties included the United Peoples Front (UPF) and Nepal Communist Party (Flaming Torch Bearers-Mashal).

In Kathmandu, over 4,000 communist supporters took to the streets in the afternoon, waving banners bearing slogans condemning Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and protesting against the arrests of their colleagues.

About 100 communists, including convenor of the UPF Babu Ram Bhattarai, were arrested on Sunday while trying to burn an effigy of the prime minister.

Some 100 more were arrested early Tuesday morning, apparently to foil the planned general strike, a UPF official said, with more than 200 others arrested by police during demonstrations. But police put the official arrest count at about 200, maintaining the round up was to avoid damage to public and private property during the strike.

Most shops in the three towns in the Kathmandu valley—Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur—were closed and public and private vehicles stayed off the roads, their owners fearing attacks by demonstrators.

State-run transport and trolley bus services operated as normal, though they carried police guards.

Police source said three trolley buses were stoned in the pro- Marxist town of Bhaktapur, 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) east of Kathmandu.

The four left-wing factions had called for the strike in order to press Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to resign from office and permit an investigation into the cause of a May 16 car crash at Das Dhunga west of here, in which two senior communist leaders were killed.

The four factions had also denounced the truce signed between the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) and the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) on August 17, to end agitation started on June 5 after the government agreed to meet their demands.

UPF convenor Baburam Bhattarai earlier told AFP: "The NCP-UML deceived and exploited us."

"We will continue our agitation against the prime minister till he steps down," Bhattarai said.

Finance Ministry Announces ADB Grant

BK1709163693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Kathmandu, 17 (AFP)—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a 19.9 million dollar loan and grant assistance to Nepal, Finance Ministry officials said Friday [17 September].

The official said the funds woulod be used to finance the Kathmandu Urban Development Project (KUDP), and to improve the social and economic status of women.

"The Nepalese women will be given training enabling them to engage themselves in income generating activities, small enterprises, and remunerative employment and also provided credit facility to those training ones," the official said.

The KUDP is designed to improve the productivity and urban environment of Kathmandu city through investments in critical urban infrastructures like sanitation and environment related projects.

"The loan assistance will also be utilised to improve roads, drainage, land development and environment with in Kathmandu Municipality area and construct link roads apart from strengthen its planning and supervision capability," he said.

Pakistan

Article Views Sanctions, Gen Hoar Visit

BK1909141593 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Sep 93 p 11

[M.B. Naqvi article: "Gen Hoar's visit"]

[Text] Curiously Gen Joseph P. Hoar seems to have taken up from where Pakistan Foreign Secretary had left off in the dialogue with the Clinton administration. Naturally, the American General is expected to emphasise the military related aspects of the bilateral and regional situation. And for the more political parts of these negotiations, other US officials are being expected.

Apparently these talks do not aim at the withdrawal of the sanctions over the suspected transfer of missile technology, violating the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) through the Chinese sales of M-11 rockets. Pakistani officials are playing down the significance of the embargoes, portraying their country to have been caught in a crossfire between China and the U.S. The issues at stake between the two great powers are probably wider than merely M-11 missile sales. Even so, America has imposed sanctions on Pakistan for two years, although they are category two sanctions. It is a punishment defining the quality of bilateral relationship and should not be poohpoohed.

Net impact of this punishment would be slight, it is said. Perhaps so. But the sanctions' principal victim is Pakistan's Ministry of Defence; all its imports can be affected. At this stage, it is not clear which of its imports shall be affected. It may be that the specifics will, as is usual, remain a matter of uncertainty and bargaining. Americans are expected to be flexible. But the people to decide will not be Pakistanis. Hence the background of Pakistan-American relations is vital, and also how much does this country accepts the US wishes.

Two facts are outstanding: Pakistan-American relations are ambiguous and have ascribed a roller-coaster course over since the Afghan war ended. There are plenty of convergences and divergences in the approach and purposes of the two parties. General orientation of American foreign policy will also be decisive. To a smaller extent, Pakistan's own being and becoming is sure to have an impact on links with America.

Secondly the US is embarked on a leadership course in Asia and its top objective is to ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology. Other American objectives, except promotion of trade and Governments, would be secondary. President Clinton's decision to travel to South Korea to utter the warning to North Korea was to underline the importance of this American objectives. All American policies are integral to this aim.

Domestically, our political instability has encouraged the loud rhetoric of rightwing parties about Islam, especially of the Jamaat-i-Islami-dominated PIF (Pakistan Islamic Front). It is sure to produce deep unease in Washington and some Western schools' reaction is consternation and panic. The question is whether being frightened by the spectre of such Islamic fundamentalism is right. But it is not for us to judge. Anyway, the situation is piquant; dyed-in-the-wool pro-American conservatives are beating their breast about defying America while the latter's is doing all that would confirm their worst suspicions. Although one is not sure which of their commitments—to conservative politics that would always warm the cockles of Aemrican hearts or to Islamic objective that the Americans see as fundamentalism—will finally prevail, American reaction remains understandable. This unavoidably is an input in the Pakistan-American relations.

Pakistanis used to be sure of their strategic importance; situated so close to the narrow neck of the Persian Gulf and also well placed to play a role in former Soviet Central Asian republics. Pakistani decision makers thought that they would continue to be cultivated by Americans. The assessment was valid so long as the cold war lasted. In the meanwhile, development of technology and the specific diplomatic purposes of the surviving superpower have largely changed the perspective.

American conduct has punctured Islamabad's confidence. Clever- by-half calculations have restored some of the older certainties. Geography, at any rate, has not changed and questions raised by the disappearance of Soviet Union are seen as having opened a window of opportunity for Pakistan in Central Asia. The expansion of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], from the Pakistani viewoint, was a logical consequence. It confimed their party real and partly wishful assessments.

The fact, however, remains that, the major policy thrusts of America are quite unrelated to Pakistani sensibilities—the prepossession in Washington seems to be that most issues should be tackled on a case by case and in an eclectic manner. Problem for Pakistanis is to determine whether they would continue receiving a favoured consideration from the only superpower. For some obscure reason, mandarins in Islamabad cannot conceive of life without such a favoured treatment. It would be far better if we err on the side of caution and not behave like a spoilt child. The issues involved are serious. They should be tackled on merit. A lot of lawyer- like stalling and focusing on peripheral aspects may afford sentimental satisfaction and possibly provide opportunities of politicking. But since the Americans mean business, it would be better to employ what intellectual courage we have. Let us get down to the roots of problems.

Insofar as the nuclear issue—that the Americans regard as the core issue—is concerned, it is, from Islamabad's viewpoint, regional in character and is not a bilateral one between America and Pakistan. But it can legitimately be considered a bilateral one between Pakistan and India. India's nuclear programme is certainly a larger and more complex question. Indians flare up at the suggestion of their programme being equated with the puny little

Pakistani effort; they immediately bring in the Chinese Bomb. It cannot be denied that this is a strong talking point for South Block because Sino-Indian relations have been bad since the late 1950s and there was a war between them in 1962.

And yet China exploded its first atomic device in 1964 and Indians felt no great urgency to reply. They did so only in May 1974 despite a capability to fabricate a device at a few weeks notice since middle 1950s. For a whole decade, Indian security did not feel too threatened by China's nuclear deterrent. Many Indians feel that Indian security does not require nuclear weapons simply because of the Chinese deterrent. The obscurity of Indian motivation in wanting an independent nuclear capability remains. Whatever South Block may have to say about China or other Navies in the Indian ocean, one still considers Islamabad to be right in this assessment; Indian nuclear deterrent is primarily aimed at Pakistan. (No one in Pakistan makes any pretence about the Pakistani effort having been conceived only in terms of India).

The spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia threatens primarily the Pakistanis and Indians and also Nepalese, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and others. Visualising a nuclear exchange ever taking place in the Indo-Gangeric valleys is a nightmare. Americans anyhow would not be directly affected. Therefore the issue should be primarily between the Pakistanis and Indians. One is aware that the Indian establishment has no policy on the subject—except lowering the head and continuing with what they may be doing. Indians do not wish to talk on this subject and feel embarrassed by it.

A new rhetoric has begun emanating from new Delhi and Islamabad; the first harmony between them to be regretted: American moral position is weak; they employ double standards between the five big nuclear have-nots and all others; the NPT [Nuclear Non -Proliferation Treaty] is discriminatory in permitting vertical proliferation for the haves while enjoining total abstinence on the have-nots; so long as the big five, who are also permanent UN Security council members, do not start winding down their nuclear arsenals they have no right to preach non proliferation to others.

The argument, strictly speaking is technically unassailable. But it does not address the main problem, which is nuclear weapons in the Indus and Ganga plains. The Big Five, whether good or bad, are actually irrelavent both in logic and morality. They may have a lot to answer for. But they are not responsible for the Indian or Pakistani nuclear weapons. I see no logical or moral link between the American miniaturisation of hydrogen bombs and the crude, dirty and heavy Pakistani one—or for that matter Indian ones. Do let us give up hypocrisy and face facts that an intermittent and shame faced nuclear arm race is on in South Asia, quite independently of the Big five.

One has talked much on the nuclear issue is mainly because much will turn on this issue. Secondly all other circumstance—Pakistan's economy, so critically dependent on American goodwill, regional peace, again being kept mainly by American influence—with the curious combination of an ascending degree of American influence in Islamabad and the rising decibels of Islamic rhetoric by erstwhile pro-Americans make for much uncertainty. Then there are irritants like heroin and cannabis trade. Among these as the events of July 18 have shown, the US was a palpable influence, even if it had no option but to act with, and through, Pakistan Army Chief. That raises larger issues.

Little meaningful can be said about India here. But the straws in the Paksitani wind since July 18 last and the strong presence of the caretakers show that the US seems to [word indistinct] more store by Pakistan Army's stability promotion than by democracy. American fear of fundamentalism, mostly exaggerated, can be very dangerous for this country's future. It is hard to say what is in store for us. For the moment, suffice it to say that the loud Islamic rhetoric is receiving much help from those who are hardliners on the nuclear issue but otherwise are those who never conceived of life without coperating with the US [sentence as published]. And this is so just when the Americans are undertaking an anti-nuclear crusade. Is it a moment of truth for our arch-conservatives or an elaborate fixed fight is beginning?

Hoar Interest in Siachen Questioned

BK2109043793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 19 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: American General Joseph Hoar's visit to Siachen"]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Front and the chief of Jamaat-i-Islam-i-Pakistan has said that the visit to Siachen Glacier by Joseph Hoar, commander-in-chief of the American Central Command, is part of an international conspiracy. Prior to General Hoar's visit, some American commandos also visited the Siachen glacier and nothing could be said about the number of Jewish military officials among them. The people of Pakistan have also taken note of the reports of mysterious activities by Israeli commandos in Srinagar a few months prior to this. The circumstances give rise to the feeling that perhaps General Hoar has visited Siachen only to "marvel" at the serenity of Siachen. But a Foreign Office spokesman said that the general had come to Islamabad on a four-day visit only in the context of friendship and bilateral interest. The magnificience and grandeur of Siachen glacier is a valuable part of Pakistan's freedom. This snow-clad region can also be called the roof of Pakistan. No nation can allow enemy forces to occupy any part of its territory. But, the people of Pakistan are unfortunate in that the enemy appears to be sitting on the very lifeline of their beloved motherland. A few years ago, that enemy [India] deployed its troops on Pakistan's roof, Siachen, with extreme deceitfulness. India, in one

leap, can reach Pakistan's courtyard and build its bunkers there. This situation creates many kinds of apprehensions. The growing interest in Siachen of the U.S. military top brass and officers of other military organizations causes concern and the people of Pakistan do not favorably view the "large heartedness" of describing this kind of "movement" as friendly. The growing sectarian feud in the towns and villages around Siachen can also be described as fraught with all sorts of threats. The northern areas are extremely sensitive. The law and order situation is worsening to the extent that it should be better. After witnessing all this, the people vent some hearsay, because, the government never tried to take them into confidence in this direction. At least for a while, if we take the statement of the acting prime minister for granted wherein he stated that talks would not be held with the U.S. general on Kashmir and the nuclear program, then he should necessarily tell us after all what mission the distinguished guest did accomplish during this visit to Pakistan.

PML Chief Sees U.S. 'Conspiracy' Against Islam

BK2109153193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 93 p 14

[By Aslam Butt]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 20: Secretary General of the PML (N) and former Federal Minister for Finance Senator Sartaj Aziz has observed that for the United States the Islamic world is the only threat to its plan for the new world order.

He was addressing a public gathering in connection with the election campaign of Haji Nawaz Khokhar the candidate of the party from the capital arranged by the Islamabad wing of the Jamiat Ahle Hamith which has decided to back the PML (N) in the forthcoming elections here outside the "Ahle Hadith Mosque" in Sector (?I-6) on Monday.

The announcement of the decision of the Ahle Hadith to extend its support to the PML (N) in the October elections was made by the Amir of the Jamiat-i-Ahle Hadith Allama Mohammad Hanif Abdul Aziz. He also noted his party has full faith and confidence in the leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz in his address further noted that because of the threat to the Americans from Islam it has hatched a deep rooted conspiracy against the Islamic world which he claimed has posed a serious threat to the integrity of Pakistan.

While noting this particular fear "the Americans and its allies curbed the voice of the strong countries of the Gulf and under a well thought plan indulged them in serious complications and has created problems for them to disociate them from the Islamic world" he said. He added other strong Muslim countries have been declared as "terrorists therefore the Islamic World is desperately looking towards Pakistan for leadership."

This is an established truth that only Pakistan can provide a true and strong leadership to the Islamic world and that Mian Nawaz Sharif is the sole leader who is capable to put Pakistan in the right direction for this particular cause.

Iranian Culture Minister Pays Visit

LD2009212293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, minister of culture and higher education, who is visiting Pakistan at the head of a scientific- cultural delegation, last night met with Mr. Wasim Sajjad, acting president of Pakistan. He delivered to the latter the verbal message of our country's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning the strengthening of scientific and research cooperation between the two countries as well as the expansion of cordial relations.

Pakistan's acting president thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his message. He expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances of support for Pakistan over some regional and international issues.

Our country's minister of culture and higher education who is in Islamabad to take part in the sixth conference of the Islamic Conference Organization permanent committee for scientific and technilogical cooperation, today, after participating in the first day of the meeting, left Pakistan for Doha.

Interest in Expanding Ties Conveyed

BK2009100393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has expressed the desire to expand the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Iran. This was stated by Iranian Minister for Culture and Higher Studies Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani during his meeting with Acting President Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad last night. Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan also wants to expand ties in various fields between the two countries.

Scientist: Nation Leads India in Uranium Enrichment

BK2109114193 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 19 Sep 93 pp 8, 7

[Text] Islamabad (NNI)—World-famous scientist Dr. Qadeer Khan has said that people get elected and enter the assemblies on ethnic, sectarian, and regional bases. We will now have to work on a war footing to eliminate ignorance and to ensure the progress and prosperity of the country. In an interview, he said that Pakistan is accused of buying M-11 missiles from China, and in spite of the categorical denial by the government, the propaganda in this regard continues unabatedly. He said

every country reserves the right to safeguard its sovereignty and defend its frontiers and, for this purpose, it must enjoy the right to acquire the resources it needs. It is an injustice to deprive any country of this right. Dr. Qadeer Khan said that the U.S. sanctions are aimed at harassing China. He also described as incorrect the U.S. information that in 1990 the India-Pakistan tension had escalated to a point where the two countries had even taken out and readied their respective nuclear weapons. He asserted that the falsity of this U.S. information can be assessed from the fact that Pakistan does not possess any nuclear weapon.

Answering a question, Khan said that war strategy has changed completely in this era of missiles and all countries are reviewing their respective strategies after the U.S.-Iraq war. Effective arrangements have been made to protect the Kahuta nuclear plant. Even though India started its nuclear program much earlier than Pakistan, it lags far behind Pakistan in the field of uranium enrichment. Pakistani forces are also equipped with the most sophisticated weapons and are the practical example of the poet Iqbal's interpretation of firm faith and determination and constant action. Khan said: Whenever the government assigned any task to our institution, we never disappointed it. It is, however, for the political leaders to decide whether or not to make nuclear weapons. We cannot make decisions in this regard.

Khan said that under the present circumstances, India cannot dare drop a nuclear bomb on Pakistan, and if it committed that mistake, it would not be safe from its consequences. He advised that the two countries should adopt the path of peace and tranquillity.

Answering a question about martial law, Khan said that it is imposed not because of the shortcomings in our democratic system but because of our own folly. The martial law was imposed in 1958 because of clashes over personal interests, and the second martial law was the continuation of the first one. The political wrangling and rivalry in 1977 also led to the imposition of martial law.

Comparing the nuclear programs of India and Pakistan, Khan said the foundation of our program was laid much later than that of India. New Delhi obtained a lot of assistance from foreign countries for its nuclear program. Now, we and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission are trying to fill this gap. We have helped Pakistan acquire a prominent position in the community of nations and if we work harder, we can make greater strides in other fields as well. We can make our country prosperous and impregnable. Khan said he favors the Islamic system in the country, but priority must also be given to the eradication of ignorance and illiteracy. He said we have already tested the presidential and parliamentary systems of government, but it is unfortunate that while electing representatives for the assemblies, we keep in mind the candidates' sectarian, ethnic and religious affiliations instead of looking at their qualifications and character. This situation is a deadly poison for democracy and we must rid the system of all these prejudices, he added.

Science, Technology Accord Signed With Egypt

BK2109042193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan and Egypt have signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. Under the agreement, the two countries will benefit from each other's scientific and technological experiments, exchange technicians, and find out avenues to promote joint scientific and technological projects. The agreement was signed by Lieutenant General, retired, Mohammad Shafiq, federal minister for science and technology, and Professor Dr. 'Adil 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Izz, Egyptian minister of state for scientific research, on behalf of their respective governments.

Government Urged To Invest in Education, Technology

BK2109141093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 93 p 12

[Report by Sikander Hayat]

[Text] Islamabad—Prominent nuclear scientist of the Islamic world Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, has said that a great part of science and technology is being denied to the Third World. "This is a stark reality which we have to live with".

But he was confident that the symposia like the one at which he was speaking Monday "would provide us with a platform to share and dissipate knowledge for the betterment of humanity."

Dr Khan was delivering his keynote address at Third International Symposium on Advanced Materials Monday. Acting President Wasim Sajjad was the chief guest at this meet, which is being attended by scientists and engineers from a number of countries including Pakistan.

Addressing the President, he said he was aware that Pakistan has limited resources but "unless and until we invest in science technology and education we will remain a backward, underdeveloped country." To illustrate the importance of his argument he quoted Derek Bok, the former president of Harvard University, who once quipped: "If you think that education is expensive, try ignorance."

Dr Khan said: The greatest event in the world today is not the awakening of Asia, or the actions of one or another superpower, but the advent of a change in the working conditions, thinking and structure of our society. Increased automation and sophistication in process technology has brought about a global industrialisation which has been elemental in uplifting the economic and social well being of the masses. Materials science

and engineering has also played a key role in bringing about this transformation in our society.

"The innovative use of materials has led to better medical care, enhanced safety in infra-structural projects, faster and safer transport, as well as the provision of more leisure facilities to the commonman," he added.

Dr Qadeer Khan said, global industrialisation had demanded more efficiency in the application of resources, to achieve industrial competitiveness. Smart use of advanced materials holds the key to this perception. Materials with new and improved properties with novel methods of processing give industries a considerable leverage in competing in the world market.

He said the progress of science depends on new techniques, new facts, new hypotheses, and new theories, probably in that sequence.

"Today, we have very powerful and precise analytical techniques, for chemical, physical and microstructural evaluation of materials. The processing and optimisation of properties of advanced materials demand innovative application of characterzation techniques at many stages of materials production and application."

Looking into the future materials at this juncture where the 21st century is knocking on the door, Dr Khan said one can predict that the future will see expanded joint efforts to develop technologies needed to synthesis, atom by atom today's advanced materials to produce new property combinations..

One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century Dr Khan opined will be the availability of educated, trained and skilled manpower to handle the challenges of industrial research and development of advanced materials. "We are not oblivious to this need of the future and in this connection a non-governmental organisation, viz the Society for the promotion of engineering sciences and technology, has undertaken the task of establishment and advanced GIK [Ghulam Ishaq Khan—former President] institute of engineering sciences and technology at Topi."

The civil works and other necessary infra-structure are nearing completion. The institute will start its first undergraduate classes in October this year.

Ghabid Urges Nuclear 'Sharing' Among ICO States

BK2109130993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 20 Sep 93 p 1,4

[Excerpt] Islamabad—"Pakistan should not roll back its nuclear programme. I don't agree to this approach" was the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] Secretary General and its senior most official's response when asked to comment on the "pressure" being excited on Islamabad to freeze, then cap and finally roll back its 35-year old peaceful nuclear programme.

Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid was replying to the questions asked by a group of journalists at a reception hosted here Sunday after inauguration of the 6th meeting of the COMSTECH of the OIC's over 50 members, 27 were represented, mostly at the ministerial level.

"Yes, of course, we are encouraging transfer of nuclear technology to other OIC member countries for only peaceful purposes", he stressed when asked as to whether he favours sharing of nuclear technology between the Muslim countries. But, at the same time, Dr Hamid al-Ghalid warned that it was in every sensitive issue and some people were using it against the Islamic people as propaganda.

Throughout the speeches made by President Wasim Sajjid and the OIC Secretary General, nuclear technology was not mentioned even by a word. To comment on this [word indistinct] Hamid al-Ghabid, when asked to comment indicated that the nuclear technology was expected to come up for discussion in a close-door meeting of the participants.

The secretary general also reported the idea that Islamic countries should sign up some cooperative measures in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. "Our enemy is using nuclear energy against us, so we have to be careful. It is the right time to do it", he remarked.

Earlier, in his address to the COMSTECH meeting, Dr Hamid al- Ghabid said the meet had opened in the backdrop of a "political climate filled with hope as well as disappointment and uncertainty for the Islamic community". While the deal on Palestine appeared a sign of hope to the Secretary General, the tragedy of Bosnia, aggression in Azerbaijan, repression in Kashmir and adverse situation in Afghanistan, Somalia and Albania fed frustration. [passage omitted]

Editorial on COMSTECH 'Ignorance' of Mission

BK2109125793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A Case of Mistaken Priorities"]

[Text] The sixth meeting of the OIC's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation got underway in a grand way in the opulent setting of a five star hotel under the spot lights of national and international media. It is not hard to imagine what will follow. Pious platitudes about the importance of research and development in various fields will be mouthed; high-sounding guidelines on ways to promoting cooperation among Islamic countries on these subjects will be preclaimed; a flood of turgid exhortation will gush forth from foam-flecked lips, but at the end of the day nothing of substance will-have been achieved. These observations may trigger accusations of cynicism and harshness. Yet those remarks are the result of continuous failure of the Islamic world to live up to its commitments in this area.

Since the establishmetn of COMSTECH no appreciable headway has been made in this direction except the annual ritual of hugs, handshakes and professions of noble sentiments. The most dismal aspect of this gigantic failure is the fact that these countries are not lacking in material sources for setting up high-grade science and technical institutes and research academies to prepare world- class experts in all fields of learning, but to their abiding shame the governments in all Muslim countries without any exception have shown paralysis of will, meanness of spirit and callous regard of the vital interests of their respective peoples and what is pompously proclaimed as Muslim Ummah. The population of Islamic bloc put together reaches the staggering figure of one billion, but it is not just the strength of numbers that they can boast of. A major portion of the world's oil, a prime source of energy for the bulk of global population and industry, is produced in the Muslim countries of the world. In addition to that, vast and varied mineral deposits are located in this region. Prime farm lands and valuable forests are parts of the resources of the Muslim commonwealth: Despite these virtually unlimited natural and human resources, the Islamic bloc as a whole has shown pathetic imcompetence in the management of its priceless assets. Result: these countries together import food worth 300 billion dollars annually from abroad; very few of them are even at the take-off stage of development; struggling in the shackles of backwardness, poverty and medical obcurantism as well as primitive social and political systems. All of them revel in their mindless dependence on the West for their defence needs to face mostly imaginary foes within the Muslim family of states. The most important reason for this hide-bound decadence is the absence of a scientific attitude to the purposes and values of rational lifestyle. The Muslims ought to have realised that without attaining the level of science and technology obtaining in the developed world, they have not even a ghost of a chance of self-respecting survival in the modern world. [sentence as published]

Developing these discipines should be on the top of agenda of every Muslim country, because there is no other way to ensure our continued existence in this fast moving world. How stupid and myopic our governments have been in this regard can be seen by the response to Professor Salam's appeal for a donation of a mere 100 million dollars with which the only Muslim Nobel laureate wanted to set up a world class science college meant to produce scientists and scholars of outstanding ability. Apart from vague promises, he received nothing else for the project of pioneering importance. On the other hand we can see vast sums being wasted on "Islamic" universities and "Deeni" madrassas, which mostly purvey aimless and outdated fiction in the name of Islamic faith. These archiac seats of so-called learning stunt the mental development of their alumni and render them incapable of understanding the fascinating complexitudes of the world they live in. These are the fortresses of darkness in which reside all that is destructive of enlightened education and intellectual activity. The Islamic Ummah is still waiting for the dawn of its age of reason. To usher that age ought to be the objective for this COMSTECH which only betrays ignorance of its basic mission.

Islamic Committee Meeting on Science, Technology Ends

BK2109161893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The sixth meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation [COMSTECH] has ended in Islamabad. The meeting approved two special projects for the development of science and technology in the Islamic world. Acting President Wasim Sajjad, who is the chairman of the committee, addressed the concluding session which adopted a resolution approving the committee's integrated program for the development of science and technology in the least developed Islamic countries. This two-year program will be launched next year. The committee also approved a comprehensive (?atlas) of the Islamic world and the proposal for convening a meeting of health ministers to discuss cooperation among member-countries to control infectious diseases affecting human and animal lives and industrial resources. The COMSTECH appealed to the member-states, financial institutions, banks, and nongovernment organizations to provide funds voluntarily for the committee's scientific and technological programs. It requested the Pakistani president to exercise his influence as the chairman of the committee to utilize the Islamic Conference Organization's funds.

Sajjad Rejects Israel-PLO Model for Kashmir

BK1909161993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Acting President Sajjad has said that Pakistan does not intend to resolve the Kashmir dispute with India on the lines of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization accord. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning, he said Pakistan's stand on Kashmi is very clear, and a solution to this problem is possible only through the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

He reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and that they want to utilize nuclear technology to meet the shortfall in energy. He said Pakistan will not unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. If India signs this treaty, then Pakistan will do so. He added that Pakistan will continue its peaceful nuclear program.

Wasim Sajjad announced that the presidential election will be held after the general elections within the stipulated time in accordance with the Constitution. He expressed regret at the recent bombings and said the government is trying to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

President Sajjad on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue

BK2009154393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 20 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Wasim Sajjad has ruled on the possiblity of the solution of Jasmin and Kashmir dispute along the lines of PLO-Israel agreement.

Talking to newsmen after inaugurating the sixth meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) here on Sunday he said Pakistan's stand on Kashmir dispute is very clear adding that the solution of the problem lies in the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

When his attention was drawn towards Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's statement that India would neither sign nuclear Non-Proliteration Treaty (NPT) nor would she go for a ban on missile technology regime, the Acting President reiterated that Pakistan would not unilaterally sign the NPT. We would however reciprocate if India agrees to sign the NPT he added.

He said Pakistan has so far floated a number of concrete suggestions for the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia. But India has never responed positively to any suggestion or a proposal, he regretted. He categorically said Pakistan which wants to utlize nuclear technology for meeting energy shortage would continue its peaceful nuclear programme. He said Pakistan is keen to resolve nuclear issue on the basis of equality so as to usher an era of peace, in the region.

Responding to a question about his talks with Commander-in-Chief of the US Central Command, General Joseph P Hoar who recently visited Pakistan the Acting President said that during the talks he stressed that at a time when the cold war is over and global issues are being resolved on merit it is essential that all outstanding international issues including Kashmir should be solved on the basis of meeting, morality justice, equity and international law.

He said during his meeting with Hoar be had made it clear that only the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions could lead to a durable settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Asked as to what is the significance of General Hoar's visit to the forward positions at Siachen glacier and Kashmir he replied that there is no significance of Hoar's visit to those areas. He had gone there just to see from his own eyes the prevailig situation at Siachen and in Kashmir he added.

When his attention was drawn towards recent statements made by some Indian leaders that Pakistan will be wiped out from the world map Wasim Sajjad emphatically said Pakistan will continue to exist on the world map with its full dignity and granduer and no power on earth can cast an evil eye on its soverignty and territorial integrity.

He refused to offer any comment when asked as to how does he view PLO-Israel accord.

He said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already issued statement reflecting Pakistan's position on the accord.

When asked to comment on the violation of the electoral code of ethics by some political leaders the Acting President said the Chief Election commissioner is the competent man to comment whether the code of ethics is being violated or not.

Responding to another question as to when the presidential elections will be held in the country he said the president elections as provided in the Constitution will be held within stipulated period after the elections to the National Assembly.

Replying to a question about Northern Areas he said no final decision regarding their status has been taken as yet adding that what ever will be done in this respect will be decided in accordance with the aspirations of the nations.

He agreed to a questioner that the issues having far reaching consequences should be decided by the representative government.

He replied in affirmative when asked if he is satisfied with the arrangements being made to have free, fair and impartial eleections in the country. He categoricaly said that the elections to the national and provincial assemblies will be held on time and there will be no postponement or a delay in this regard.

He however regretted over the recent incidents of blasts in the country and said the government is making all out efforts to prevent reoccurence of such incidents.

Inaugurating the sixth meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation the President said "We in Pakistan firmly believe that a true revival of science in the Muslim world can only be achieved when Islam permeates in our entire life and social environment. We also believe that science will rediscover its roots in the Ummah only if we develop science and technology within parameters of Islamic consciousness". [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister: Pakistan Ready for Kashmir Talks

BK1909144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir say an additional Indian Army division has been rushed to the held valley. The new Army deployment is indicative of a fresh large-scale military operation against mojahedin. Meanwhile, another 13 people have been martyred by occupation forces at various places. Four of them were shot

dead after arrests during house-to-house search at Chandola in Baramula District. Five Indian soldiers were also killed in clashes with mojahedin in Doda and Srinagar.

The foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, has said Pakistan will welcome any serious offer or proposal for a purposeful approach to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir question. Asked to comment on the interview of the Indian external Affairs minister published in the KHALEEJ TIMES of 17 September, Mr. Sattar stressed that respect for the inherent and internationally recognized right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination is obviously the key to such a settlement. Mr. Sattar said, as in the past, Pakistan remains prepared to enter into negotiations with India or adopt any of the other means of peaceful settlement of differences in accordance with the charter of the United Nations. He said a principal settlement acceptable to the parties would usher in an era of peace and cooperation in the South Asian region.

Islamabad Notes UN Chief's Mediation Offer

BK2109144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus-Ghali, has drawn the world's attention to the Kashmir issue in his annual report to the General Assembly. This is the first time in several years that a reference has been made to the India-Pakistan dispute over occupied Kashmir. Dr. Ghali has offered to help the two sides resolve the issue. India has been consistently ignoring the offer of mediation over Kashmir by any third party. The report was issued on the eve of the assembly's 40th session which opens tonight to deliberate on issues of war and peace. In his report to the General Assembly, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said the UN military observer group in India and Pakistan has been monitoring the cease-fire in occupied Jammu and Kashmir since 1949. Dr. Ghali stated that he has also expressed his readiness, should the two countries request it, to exert every possible effort to facilitate the search for a lasting solution.

The Pakistan delegation will be led by the foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, who will address the General Assembly on the 29th of this month. Pakistan is expected to introduce a draft resolution that would seek the assembly's condemnation of the massive violations of human rights by Indian security forces in held Kashmir and demand an immediate end to them. The resolution would also call for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to occupied Kashmir.

Qureshi Proposes Bhutto-Sharif Coalition Government

BK1909153593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 20 (AFP)—Pakistan's caretaker leader has suggested that former premiers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif form a coalition government after elections next month.

Premier Moeen Qureshi made the proposal during a meeting with newspaper editors here Saturday, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported Sunday.

Such a government would be in the "best interests" of the country, Qureshi was quoted as saying.

Bhutto and Sharif, arch political foes currently campaigning for the October 6-9 elections, should "work together for the nation's prosperity," the interim premier said.

Qureshi said he had talked separately to Bhutto and Sharif about the elections and their "results."

Neither offered any immediate comment on Qureshi's proposal.

Both political leaders are predicting thumping wins for their camps, but Qureshi's statement reflected suggestions neither would secure a clear majority in the 217-member National Assembly.

Judge Issues Contempt Notices to Sharif, Bhutto

BK1909101493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Justice Abdul Majeed Tiwana of the Lahore High Court has issued show-cause notices to former prime ministers Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto for the contempt of court. The notice to Nawaz Sharif has been issued in connection with his statement in which he had regretted that he could not spend 800 million rupees more from the national Islamic welfare fund.

Justice Tiwana's notice to Benazir Bhutto relates to the intercourt appeal against the self-initiated investigations into the irregularities committed by former rulers. The learned judge has ordered the two respondents to submit their replies today.

Further on Contempt Notices

BK1909101693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—A Pakistani high court judge has issued notices to former premiers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif for alleged contempt of court, news reports said Sunday.

The two have been asked to explain why they should not be proceeded against and disqualified from the October 6-9 polls, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

Justice Abdul Majeed Tiwana of the Lahore High Court (LHC) has cited the former premiers' reported remarks related to an inquiry conducted by the judge into land allotments and the handling of state welfare funds.

Earlier this month, Tiwana said that during Sharif's 30-month rule the former premier had "dissipated huge

amounts" of a 2,000 million rupee (66 million dollars) Islamic welfare fund called bait- ul-mal.

He had also spoken out against discretionary powers under which successive premiers since 1985 had made "politically-motivated" allotments of plots of land.

In the contempt notices, Tiwana objected to Sharif's statement that had he remained in power he would have spent the entire bail- ul-mal fund.

While in office Sharif had disbursed cheques worth 80 million rupees from the fund, before resigning in July because of a political crisis.

The notice to Bhutto has been issued in connection with remarks that she had been involved in the plot allotments inquiry with intentions of bad faith.

APP said a counsel for Bhutto appeared before Tiwana in Lahore Saturday and sought an apology for remarks against her.

High Court Rescinds Notices

BK2109043193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Sep 93 p 1, 10

[By Ashraf Maikham]

[Excerpt] Lahore—The Lahore High Court Sunday withdrew contempt of court notices issued to former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif, through his counsel tendered unconditional apology and said he had great respect for judiciary and specially for Justice Abdul Majid Tiwana. He said his statements about the distribution of Bait-ul-Maal funds were not aimed at criticising the court judgement.

Benazir Bhutto's counsel said the contemptuous material in intra- court appeal was written by them and their client was not aware of the details as she had given them instruction on telephone. They said they had deleted the material from the appeal Justice Abdul Majid Tiwana will be on one-month leave from Sunday. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

Solid Metals Symposium To Begin 20 Sep

BK1909152793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 19 Sep 93 pp 3, 6

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Rawalpindi—The third international conference on solid metals [thos dhat] is scheduled to begin in Islamabad on 20 September. The conference, which will last five days, will be attended by eminent scientists from 27 countries. It will be inaugurated by President Wasim Sajjad, while the concluding session will be addressed by Finance Minister Syed Babar Ali. About 400 prominent scientists and intellectuals from national universities and other organizations dealing with solid metals will also take part in the conference. In the meantime, a press briefing on the conference will be held at 1700 on 19 September at Islamabad (?hotel), during which Dr. Anwarul Haq, the secretary of the symposium, will brief news correspondents.

President Inaugurates Seminar

BK2009143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has said our resources will remain untapped and underutilized unless we succeed in building infrastructure for the use of sophisticated technologies. He was inaugurating an international symposium on advanced materials in Islamabad today.

[Begin Sajjad recording] In order to enter the higher era of technology in the 21st century, we must advance ourselves in each and every field of science and technology. To this end, we have in recent years made a modest beginning in alloy steels and energy- related projects, but the facilities established are not adequate. One of the objectives of this seminar is to provide a common platform to our worthy participants from abroad to discuss in detail and work out programs with their local counterparts for collaborative, goal-oriented research and training in their respective fields of specialization.

I would like to emphasize that we are determined to achieve the rapid industrialization of Pakistan, for which we have already several concessions, like the one-window operation, relaxation in excise and other duties, tax holidays, free of cost infrastructure, money transfer etc. In particular, we would like to welcome foreign investors to join hands with us and assist in improving the living standards of our people through the transfer of technology. [end recording]

In his keynote address, chairman of the symposium Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan said it is his earnest desire that scientific and technical education takes root in this country. Efforts are under way for the accomplishment of this goal.